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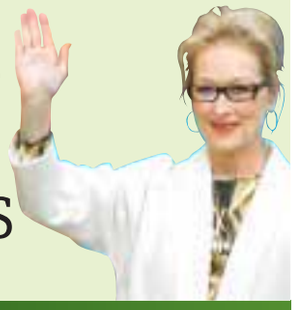
ENTERTAIN WITH PANACHE
SIX TIPS FOR YOUR DINNER PARTY {page 24}

MERYL OR MICHELLE?
REEL GUYS' OSCAR PICKS
{page 17}



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Chief Peguis Trail extension opens Friday

Councillor calls it a 'relief' **Extension opens year ahead of schedule**

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

North Winnipeggers, breathe a sigh of relief.

The long-touted Chief Peguis Trail extension opens at 11 a.m. on Friday, which will more easily connect Henderson Highway with Lagimodiere Boulevard and provide major traffic relief on residential roads and connector routes.

Old Kildonan Coun. Jeff Browaty said the opening was a long-standing issue.

"You know, those east-west streets (like McIvor Avenue), they just weren't designed for the amount of traffic they're getting," said Browaty.

Browaty said routes like Springfield Road, which have single-family homes on them, handled four times as much traffic as they were designed to. Some roads saw 22,000 vehicles a day, and Springfield became a "24-hour truck route," said Browaty.

"It's very exciting, and residents dealt with a lot of things, a lot of construction, Rothesay (Avenue) being closed," he said.

Browaty said he believes about 20,000 vehicles will use the new extension daily.

The roadway will continue to expand, he said, west from Main Street to Route 90, and east from Lagimodiere Boulevard to the Perimeter Highway. As well, it may be upgraded to freeway status eventually as the city owns enough land around the extension to upgrade the road further.

Breaking it down

- All three levels of government helped pay for the extension, which cost $109 million.
- Ottawa spent $25 million, Manitoba $9 million and the rest is being paid for by the City through a private-public partnership with DBF2 Ltd.
- The project includes a new underpass at Rothesay Street and a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge at Northwest Pioneers Greenway.

SVJETLANA MILNAREVIC/FOR METRO

▶ Motorists will no longer have to use residential streets to get to Lagimodiere Boulevard from Henderson Highway.

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Ho-Ho-Ho. Route

▶ The City of Winnipeg Santa Bus began chugging around the city yesterday, collecting cash for the Christmas Cheer Board.

COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG

A ride to raise fares on the Santa Bus

All decked out featuring Santa and his reindeer plastered on its exterior, bus No. 272 will spend the next week on route No. 11 (Portage-Kildonan), before moving to No. 14 (Ellice-St. Mary's), 16 (Osborne-Selkirk) and then 18 (Corydon) by the end of December. All cash fares collected on the bus will be donated to the Christmas Cheer Board. Last year, the Santa Bus raised $16,000.

Baconfest a salty, sweet success

12 local chefs created and donated unique bacon recipes ◐ $9,300 raised for United Way

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

Winnipeg's first Baconfest was a salt-laden, finger-lickin', delicious success.

Twelve chefs from local restaurants dished up bacon-inspired cuisine to about 100 attendees at the Richardson Complex for the Environment at the University of Winnipeg Wednesday night. The dishes ranged from the warm and comforting (like bacon mac 'n' cheese from The Tallest Poppy) to the sweetly divine (like the chocolate Fresh Bacon Truffle from Chocolatier Constance Popp) and the rather bizarrely delicious (deconstructed bacon fat salad shooter, anyone?).

The fundraiser, the brainchild of Hot 103's Ace Burpee, couldn't have gone better, he said. "Honestly, I knew it would be good, but it was better than I imagined," Burpee said, adding the event raised $9,300 for the United Way.

Burpee gave credit to the chefs who created their dishes and donated them for a good cause, but also to chefs Ben Kramer and Alexander Svenne for helping him put the event together in only a few weeks. "It would have been a good idea that never happened without them," he said. "They have the right mindset ... they made it work."

ELISHA DACEY/METRO WINNIPEG

▶ Lunch Rush columnist Pay Chen, left, hams it up with Cakeology Cupcakes owner Pamela Kirkpatrick at Baconfest on Wednesday.

1 news

The problem with apple juice isn't so much the arsenic, experts say; it's the sky-high caloric content.
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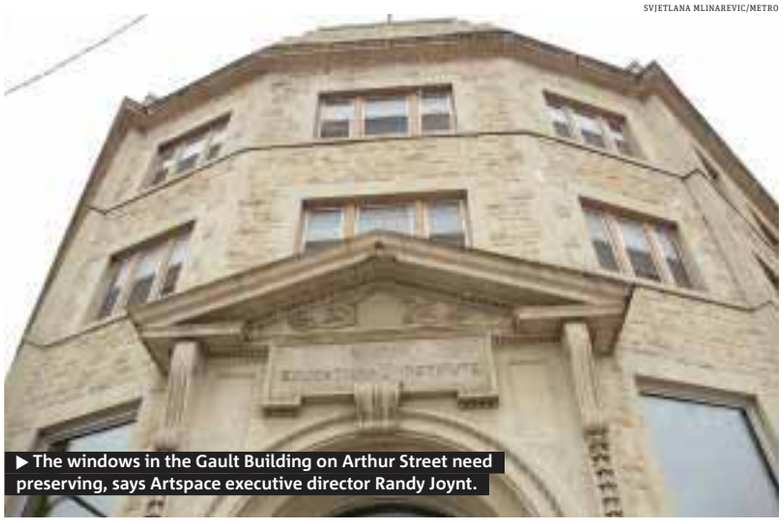
SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC/METRO



▶ The windows in the Gault Building on Arthur Street need preserving, says Artspace executive director Randy Joynt.

Feds spend cash to preserve Gault building windows

A $22,000 investment from Parks Canada for Arthur Street building Artspace to draw up plan for windows

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

A building in Winnipeg's Exchange District will have an opportunity to preserve a window to the past.

The Gault Building on Arthur Street will see a $22,000 investment from Parks Canada to draw up a plan to preserve the historical building's windows.

Currently the home to Artspace, executive director Randy Joynt said there are 142 windows in the building, and all of them need attention.

6

The Gault Building is six storeys high and 55,000 sq. ft, housing 19 tenants under the Artspace umbrella.

"The way the windows were designed, they're actually very energy efficient," said Joynt. "I don't think we could do any better in terms of energy efficiency.

"All of them are suffering from age. Some of them are drafty, some don't operate properly."

Artspace will spend a total of $44,000 to draw up the plans, and estimate the costs of repairing and conserving them properly.

Joynt said because the Gault Building is designated historical, they can't simply remove the windows and replace them.

"(The windows) not only contribute to the character of the building, but really to the character of the Exchange District."

The Gault Building was built in 1900, and some of the windows are original.

A Yes! For Winnipeg

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

About 200 of Winnipeg's top executives met at the Radisson Hotel early Thursday morning to discuss the economic future of the city.

The meeting was held by Yes! Winnipeg, an economic initiative with the mandate to create 4,200 new jobs by 2015.

Yes! Winnipeg claims in their first year in operation they helped with 18 successful business transactions, which resulted in more than 500 jobs.

The initiative has received $6.3 million in financial support from investors such as the Province of Manitoba, Great-West Life, Manitoba Hydro and Investors Group.

"We are Winnipeg's sales team," said Bill Morrissey, leader of Yes! Winnipeg. "Our product is Winnipeg."

Morrissey listed a number of businesses that have come to Winnipeg as a result of the initiative, such as Quebec's luxury spa giant Nordik Spa and the boutique hotel ALT.

He credits the city's growing population, low operating costs, centrally-located transportation hub, and an abundance of low-cost clean energy as incentives in attracting investors.

Morrissey said currently, a global tech firm, a construction company, and a food-starch company are eyeing the city.

With potential job losses at the CWB, Morrissey said now is a great time to gain investors in agri-business and research who could build from that workforce.

Yes! Winnipeg said to date 110 private companies have pledged $4.5 million in conjunction with $1.8 million from the public sector over the next five years.

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC/FOR METRO

▶ Bill Morrissey discusses the 10 types of assistance Yes! Winnipeg provides its members.

History

History of Yes! Winnipeg

- Launched in January 2011.
- Formerly known as Selling Winnipeg to the World initiative.
- It's a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Winnipeg Inc.

Abandoned baby not really abandoned: Cops

Media reports Wednesday that a baby had been abandoned in a stairwell at Club Regent Casino have now been found to be untrue.

Initial reports stated a woman had called 911, saying she had found an abandoned baby in a stairwell at Club Regent Casino.

During a press conference held on Thursday, Winnipeg Police Services Const. Robert Carver said the 911 caller was the mother herself.

The baby was never actually abandoned, he said, adding the child was with its mother at all times. He also confirmed at no time was the baby in a stairwell, nor that Club Regent had any connection to the incident.

Carver said the baby was very young but couldn't confirm if it was a newborn. He did say that Child and Family Services are involved and that the baby is in stable condition.

The mother, in her early 20s from north of Winnipeg, was in an emotional state when she made the call.

The police have concluded that this is no longer a police matter and that charges are not being considered since the call was not a hoax and was not malicious.

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC

Wade Miller, CEO & Co-Founder

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Fire sparks Occupy meeting with province

Occupy removes eight tents deemed vacant after removal notices issued by province ◐ Occupier said meeting with province was 'slightly adversarial'

SEAN LEDWICH/FOR METRO

▶ Grassy patches dot the Occupy Winnipeg camp where vacant tents have been removed. A few occupiers plan to brave winter nights in the trees along Osborne Street.

SEAN LEDWICH
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

Last Friday's fire at the Occupy Winnipeg camp sparked a Monday meeting with the province and some takedown notices, but occupiers pledge they will maintain a presence in Memorial Park throughout winter.

On Monday, about a dozen occupiers met with Manitoba officials — a meeting requested by the province after Friday's fire destroyed a vacant tent.

Louise May, media contact for OW, said the province led off the meeting by saying their main concern was safety for occupiers, "but when push came to shove and we asked about bringing in warmer structures to prevent hypothermia — one of their main concerns — they said no."

May said the occupiers will now decide whether to move ahead with plans to construct a "lovely design that was facilitated by some architect friends of ours" which incorporates hay bales.

In a statement, the province said they "made it clear to the group that we will not permit permanent or semi-permanent structures on the site" or allow any vacant tents.

The province is allowing two larger structures — a yurt and a festival tent — to remain.

Several occupiers told Metro Winnipeg that five people will continue sleeping at the camp, tenting in the grove of trees along Osborne Street.

On Thursday, 20 tents remained in the park.

Indoors for the winter

Occupy Winnipeg may be keeping a foothold in Memorial Park, but some of their activities are moving indoors.

Saturday's general assembly will be at the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre.

The group's Facebook page sets the agenda as "dematerialization/reconstruction of the camp for the upcoming winter months."

Louise May said they plan to hold general assemblies twice a week at the centre. Outdoor meetings in the camp's yurt will likely continue as well, said occupier Robert Gaumond.

"Occupy Winnipeg is going to move to more of an inside concept and try to come back in the spring with a vengeance," Gaumond said. ● SEAN LEDWICH

For more local news visit metronews.ca/winnipeg

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC/FOR METRO

▶ Brian Mayes says he hopes to see more money put into the conservation and health of the Seine River.

New councillor vows to be different, progressive

Winnipeg's newest city councillor says St. Vital will see a different type of councilor than his predecessor.

Brian Mayes said while he respects the work former councillor Gord Steeves did while in office, he will be a different type of representative.

"I won't be as close to the mayor as Gord Steeves was."

Mayes, a former Brandon school trustee and soccer coach, said, "I'm elated by (the win) and humbled by it ... People are putting their confidence in me."

A lawyer by trade, Mayes said he decided to run for council because it was something he always wanted to do.

"I was always interested in politics, and the combination of events with Gord Steeves leaving, I thought, 'I would like to do this.' I was ready for it and I seized the moment."

The young father of two said his wife, University of Winnipeg professor Dr. Alison Marshall, was supportive of his decision to enter politics.

Mayes' platform centered around infrastructure and crime, which he sees as the two top issues facing the city now.

Mayes also wants to see more money put into the Save Our Seine initiative and implementation of his youth volunteer program, City-Year, which he plans on discussing with the mayor.

Mayes will be officially sworn in to council on Dec. 14. ● SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC

Station continues to reign supreme

Winnipeg radio station CJOB continues to dominate the local airwaves.

The latest BBM numbers are out, and they put CJOB firmly on top, with a 14.7 radio share, down from 16.6 this past spring.

Evanov Radio Group's new Energy 106 blasted out of the gate with their Top 40 station, gathering a 6.9 share in the few weeks its been on the air. They appear to have affected rival Top 40 station Hot 103, which fell to 8.6 from 15.6. ● METRO

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DAVID JENKINS / WWF-CANADA

▶ A northern landscape with snow-laden tree and blue skies.

PETER EWINS / WWF-CANADA

▶ Aerial view of glaciers and lake on Baffin Island, Nunavut.

THINGS HEATING UP

Scientist not worried about development but says we're not very good at planning smartly

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN WINNIPEG

A new report issued Wednesday states Canada's Arctic is shifting to a new permanent state — one that is warmer, has less summer sea ice and a changed ocean chemistry.

The Arctic Report Card, prepared by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Program Office (NOAA), tracks the Arctic atmosphere, sea ice, biology, ocean, land and Greenland. This year, new sections were added, including greenhouse gases, ozone and UV radiation, ocean acidification and lake ice.

Pete Ewins, director of species conservation at World Wildlife Fund Canada, said the report helps show the continuing trend of extremes that Canada's Arctic is facing.

"There isn't a lot of will from our political leaders to change. Our grandchildren are going to say, 'Why didn't they make the change towards renewable energy sooner?'"
PETE EWINS, WWF SCIENTIST

"You don't take one year and use that as a basis (for not changing behaviour)," said Ewins. "It's all about rates of change, and what the (annual report card) shows us is a very scientific basis that shows the rates of change are speeding towards greater uncertainty and greater risks.

"With a greener and warmer Arctic, more development (in Northern Canada) is likely," said Monica Medina, NOAA principal deputy undersecretary. "Reports like this one help us to prepare for increasing demands on Arctic resources."

Ewins said that he isn't worried about the potential for developing Canada's Arctic, only that it's done smartly.

The report can be viewed online at noaa.gov.

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING SMIRNOFF

ENTERTAINING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

NOW THAT THE COUNTDOWN TO THE FESTIVE SEASON IS OFFICIALLY ON, IT'S TIME TO START MAKING YOUR PARTY-PLANNING LIST AND CHECKING IT TWICE

Here are some tips for stress-free holiday entertaining:

SEND INVITATIONS EARLY

There are lots of parties in December, so send your invitations a few weeks before the date so people can fit it into their schedule.

SET A GAME TIME

In the invitation, state a time parameter. Don't say: "Come by anytime after 7 p.m." if you don't want guests to linger past midnight. Instead, be specific: "Join us for wine and cheese from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m."

PLAN YOUR PANTRY

Try to always have a few culinary staples on hand in case people drop in unexpectedly. These can include antipasto, crudités, hummus and other dips, gourmet crackers, a choice of cheeses, savoury jam and a variety of cookies.

BUILD A COCKTAIL BAR

Early in December, buy a collection of spirits such as vodka, gin and white and dark rum so you'll have basic cocktail ingredients at the ready before party time.

DECIDE ON DECOR

In the days leading up to the party, try different holiday decor themes and colours until you find your favourite. You don't have to stick to traditional green, red, silver and gold; any colour combination goes as long as it's consistent.

HOLIDAY CHEER

HOLIDAY SEABREEZE

1.5 oz Smirnoff® No.21
2.5 oz cranberry juice
2 oz grapefruit juice
1 lime wedge

Fill your rock glass with cubed ice and pour in the cranberry juice. Shake the Smirnoff® and grapefruit juice together, then strain and float on top of the cranberry. Add the lime wedge and enjoy.

MADRAS

1.5 oz Smirnoff® No. 21
2.5 oz cranberry juice
2 oz orange juice
1 lime wedge

Fill your highball glass with cubed ice and pour in the Smirnoff® and the cranberry and orange juices. Stir together. Add your lime wedge and enjoy.

LONG COSMO

1 oz Smirnoff® No. 21
0.5 oz TripleSec
3 oz cranberry juice
2 lime wedges

Fill your martini shaker with ice and pour in all ingredients. Mix, then strain. Squeeze in the lime wedges, stir and enjoy.

IN CANADA'S ARCTIC REGION

PAUL NICKLEN/WWF-CANADA

▶ A polar bear and her cub rest on an iceberg in the Arctic Ocean.

Polar bears in danger, whales to benefit

Canada's Arctic will see significant changes as temperatures continue to rise.

The summer sea ice will continue to shrink, and according to the report, the minimum Arctic sea-ice area recorded in September of 2011 was the second-lowest since 1979.

The Arctic will also get greener. The report states Arctic-tundra vegetation continues to increase and is associated with higher air temperatures over most of Canada's Arctic land mass.

The warming of the Arctic threatens polar bear and walrus populations, but also opens feeding areas for whales.

1.5 C Average annual near-surface air temperatures over the Arctic Ocean were 1.5 C greater in 2011 than over the past 30 years.

The retreating ice means the ocean can absorb more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The report states the acidification of the ocean currently appears to be stable. ELISHA DACEY

Watch NOAA's video report at metronews.ca.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Abousfian Abdelrazik comments on the UN decision to remove his name from a terrorism blacklist during a news conference Thursday in Montreal.

Man lashes out at government

Removed from UN terror list, but wants public apology from Canadian officials ◑ Still on U.S. no-fly list

A man celebrating his removal from a UN terror watchlist had one message for the people of Canada on Thursday, and a completely different one for the Canadian government.

Abousfian Abdelrazik expressed thanks to Canadians, many of whom offered their help and support while he lived in legal limbo.

His message to the Canadian government was the polar opposite: Thanks for nothing.

He said he and his family suffered a miserable seven years because he was wrongly placed on the terror list, which affected his ability to work, travel or hold a bank account.

"Now I am a free person. Not because of your support, but because of the support of Canadians. Now I wish you realize this fact ... (and) do the right things you were supposed to do a long time ago."

ABOUSFIAN ABDELRAZIK, SPEAKING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

He said his reputation was tarnished and, although his name was stricken from the list this week, Abdelrazik said his heart goes out to other innocent people who remain on the list.

Abdelrazik and his supporters say what made the difference in his case was a vocal lobby and legal effort that shed light on his situation. "It would not be fair to claim this victory as my victory," he told a news conference in Montreal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Troops say 'gratifying' goodbye to Kandahar

RAFIQ MAQBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Canada withdrew 2,850 combat forces from Afghanistan this past summer.

The Maple Leaf flag was hauled down for the last time in Kandahar on Thursday.

A quiet ceremony at Kandahar Airfield marked the end of Canada's military presence in the war-wasted province.

The task force of Canadian troops assigned to pack and move the army's combat gear has completed its job and aside from a few clean-up details, the last soldiers will be out of the southern region by Dec. 12.

Lt.-Gen. Stuart Beare, who is in charge of all of Canada's overseas forces, said in a telephone interview it was "gratifying'' to witness the last parade.

Most of Canada's war has been fought under NATO as part of the International Security Assistance Force.

Parliament ordered the army to leave Kandahar by the end of this year, ending more than five years of bitter guerilla warfare with the Taliban. Combat operations finished in July.

The removal of equipment is " on time and under-budget, which is always important," said Beare, commander of the Canadian Expeditionary Force Command.

The first Canadian soldiers to set foot in Kandahar were members of the special forces who went into Afghanistan in November 2001, according to access to information documents.

A full battle group of soldiers from the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry arrived in the spring of 2002 and stayed for a six-month mission under American command. The army spent two years in Kabul before returning to Kandahar in the winter of 2006, when violence spiralled out of control.

Canadians largely fought the Taliban alone until 2009, when the Obama administration poured in tens of thousands of reinforcements.

The Americans took over responsibility for the entire province, home of the hard-line Islamic movement, earlier this year.

Beare said the Harper government's decision to withdraw is accepted and understood among the allies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shooting victim was sex-worker

A Winnipeg woman found bleeding on the street near Toronto's waterfront this week was a sex-trade worker who had been shot in the head, police said Thursday.

Det.-Sgt. Brian Borg said tips suggest Leanne Freeman, 23, had been working the streets for "some period" of time.

However, Borg said he could not link her killing to her work.

While her family is from Winnipeg, Freeman moved to Toronto during the summer and may have slept in shelters as far away as in Sudbury, Ont., he said.

Police are appealing for information about her whereabouts in the days leading up to her death.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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- A special gift after you complete the study

If you are interested or have questions, call Amy at 789-3985 or email her at hui@cc.umanitoba.ca

This study will be in the recruitment process for 3 years.

University of Manitoba

AFGHANISTAN

Karzai pardons jailed rape victim

Afghan President Hamid Karzai is pardoning an Afghan woman serving a 12-year prison sentence for having sex out of wedlock after she was raped by a relative.

Karzai's office also said the woman and her attacker agreed to marry. That would reverse an earlier decision by the woman, who had previously refused a judge's offer of freedom if she agreed to wed the rapist. Thursday's statement says Karzai decided to forgive the rest of the woman's sentence after hearing from judicial officials. It's not clear how much time the woman has served.

Her plight was highlighted in a documentary blocked by the EU because it feared the women profiled would be endangered.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minister saddened by cenotaph vandalism

Canada's veterans affairs minister says every citizen has a duty to preserve the country's war memorials.

Steven Blaney says he's saddened and appalled about vandalism at a cenotaph in Regina's Victoria Park.

Someone spray-painted obscene graffiti on the east side of the monument to soldiers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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▶ Green party Leader Elizabeth May leaves a press conference at the National Press Theatre in Ottawa Thursday.

GREEN PARTY LEADER OFFERS HER TALENTS TO SOUTH PACIFIC

Green party Leader Elizabeth May says since her own government doesn't want her contribution at an international conference on climate change, she's offered it to the South Pacific nation of Tuvalu.

May calls it a "gross insult" the federal government has excluded her and other opposition MPs from the Canadian delegation heading to a key climate conference in South Africa.

She says she and opposition environment critics sent the Prime Minister's Office a letter offering to pay their own way to the conference in Durban and they haven't received so much as a reply.

"If my government, the Government of Canada, does not need my help, I offer it to another government, one that works for my children because the Government of Canada does not work for my children, my grandchildren," May said in French.

"Only the Tuvalu government does. I trust their delegation a lot and do not trust at all the Government of Canada and its delegation."

May even tried to join the Tuvalu delegation but missed the deadline.

May says excluding her — the lone Green party MP in the House of Commons — is one thing.

Excluding the environment critics from the official Opposition NDP and Liberals is unprecedented, she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

German expert rules out 2012 apocalypse

Famous Mayan tablet details coming of new era, not end of world says expert ◐ World-changing event to take place on Dec. 21, 2012

The end is not near.

At least that's according to a German expert who says his decoding of a Mayan tablet with a reference to a 2012 date denotes a transition to a new era and not a possible end of the world as others have read it.

The interpretation of the hieroglyphs by Sven Gronemeyer of La Trobe University in Australia was presented for the first time Wednesday at the archeological site of Palenque in southern Mexico.

His comments came less than a week after Mexico's archaeology institute acknowledged there was a second reference to the 2012 date in Mayan inscriptions, touching off another round of talk about whether it predicts the end of the world.

Gronemeyer has been studying the stone tablet found years ago at the archeological site of Tortuguero in Mexico's Gulf coast state of Tabasco.

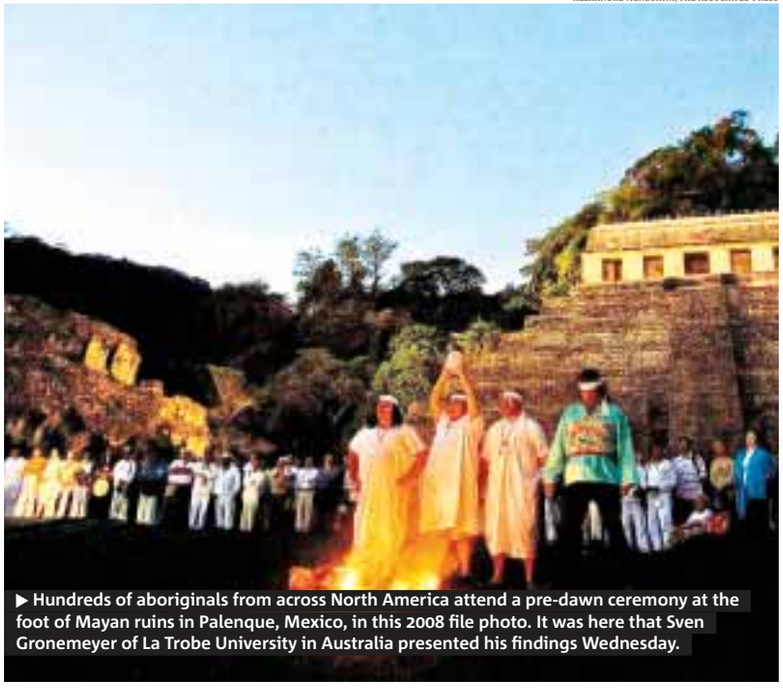
He said the inscription describes the return of mysterious Mayan god Bolon Yokte at the end of a 13th period of 400 years, known as Baktuns, on the equivalent of Dec. 21, 2012. Mayans considered 13 a sacred number. There's nothing apocalyptic in the date, he said.

The text was carved about 1,300 years ago. The stone has cracked, which has made the end of the passage almost illegible.

Gronemeyer said the inscription refers to the end of a cycle of 5,125 years since the beginning of the Mayan Long Count calendar in 3113 B.C.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALEXANDRE MENEGHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Hundreds of aboriginals from across North America attend a pre-dawn ceremony at the foot of Mayan ruins in Palenque, Mexico, in this 2008 file photo. It was here that Sven Gronemeyer of La Trobe University in Australia presented his findings Wednesday.

Apocalypse 101

- **Last week, Mexico's** National Institute of Anthropology said a second inscription mentioning the 2012 date is on the carved or moulded face of a brick.
- **Many experts doubt the** second inscription is a definite reference to the date cited as the possible end of the world, saying there is no future-tense marking as there is on the other tablet.
- **The institute has tried to** dispel talk of a 2012 apocalypse, the subject of numerous postings on the internet. Its latest step was to arrange a special round table of Mayan experts this week at Palenque.

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Host takes flak over quip

British PM calls Jeremy Clarkson's comments silly Network apologizes

STUART WILSON/GETTY IMAGES FILE

▶ Clarkson

A British trade union is denouncing a low blow from the host of the popular TV show Top Gear.

The UNISON union Thursday demanded the BBC fire Jeremy Clarkson after the opinionated TV presenter said striking public-sector workers should be shot.

Clarkson apologized Thursday afternoon, saying he had not meant anyone to take him seriously when he said strikers who had participated in Britain's largest public-sector walkout in 30 years Wednesday should be executed "in front of their families.

"I'd have them all shot," Clarkson said on BBC television's One Show on Wednesday. "I mean, how dare they go on strike when they've got these gilt-edged pensions that are going to be guaranteed while the rest of us have to work for a living?"

Clarkson said, "I didn't for a moment intend these remarks to be taken seriously — as I believe is clear if they're seen in context," he said.

"If the BBC and I have caused any offence, I'm quite happy to apologize for it alongside them."

The BBC fielded complaints after Clarkson made a joke linking truck drivers with prostitute murders and when he described former prime minister Gordon Brown as a "one-eyed Scottish idiot."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Royal. Meeting

▶ Queen Elizabeth meets Yoko Ono, right, during a visit to the Museum of Liverpool in Liverpool, England, Thursday.

TIM HALES/POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liverpool's best go on display

With 8,000 metres of public space, the recently opened Museum of Liverpool looks at Britain and the world through the eyes of the city, with 6,000 objects showcasing its unique contribution to the world.

Will, Kate, Harry to be Olympic envoys

Prince William, his wife Kate Middleton and brother Prince Harry will be official ambassadors to the 2012 London Olympic Games, royal officials said Thursday.

St. James's Palace said that all three will play a leading role in "encouraging and inspiring the British public to rally behind the 900 Olympic and Paralympic athletes" competing for Britain.

They also will use their roles to encourage greater awareness of Olympic and Paralympic values, the palace said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canada

Ridetime.ca announces
CREDIT AMNESTY 2011
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WINNIPEG - MANITOBA
The downturn in the economy has affected most people and their ability to get a car and automotive credit. Credit agencies have become very critical with credit scores and many lenders have significantly changed the criteria for someone to qualify for an auto loan. Many car shoppers today are being turned down because of their credit history. Credit Amnesty 2011 has signed an agreement with a CREDIT TO ANYONE REGARDLESS OF CREDIT SCORE. Every and any past credit problem will be accepted and approved regardless of bankruptcy, divorce, tax liens, judgements, vehicle repossessions and charge offs.

Bank Authorized Processors On Site for Instant Approvals
The management and finance staff of Credit Amnesty 2011 were flown to Toronto and trained to be lending representatives for a national leader who has been lending to credit challenged consumers in an effort to give consumers the opportunity to re-establish their credit one payment at a time. Credit Amnesty 2011 will now deliver credit approvals to every consumer they enter into the patented Credit Approval Processing System within 60 seconds. Doug MacIver, General Manager at Credit Amnesty 2011 proudly says, "we provide opportunity where others can't."

EVERYONE APPROVED!
With our patented finance program, purchasing your vehicle is hassle free. Most people have credit issues! At Ride Time... "THAT'S WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE!" No co-signer required.

Life Changing Program
Without our product, consumers are often unable to purchase a vehicle or they purchase an unreliable one and are not provided the opportunity to improve their credit standing. As we report to all major financial national credit reporting agencies, a significant number of our customers improve their lives by improving their credit score and move on to more traditional sources of financing. We have the late model vehicles people want and the ones that will qualify for this type of funding. The only thing that will affect your ability not to be approved is no down payment. And with that being said we are not here to put someone in a car that does not match their ability to pay, we want this to be a successful process that will allow those with credit problems to rebuild their lives. I know they will benefit from this program and they will always come back to us to buy a car.
From what we were told in Toronto, business starts coming in from referrals, from our own customers who find out this program is for real. They usually tell all their family and friends about it. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for someone to come in to us and drive home a nice car and rebuild their credit," adds Doug. Our staff has even told their families and friends to come down and we've notified some local companies and their employees to come down as well to take advantage of these great opportunities to rebuild your credit.
CAR proof HISTORY REPORTS are available on every vehicle. You can drive home with confidence that you know what you are buying. If I were in the market for a quality pre-owned certified vehicle, I would definitely come down early for the best selection."

Your Trade is Your Down Payment
Wholesale representatives will be on hand to give anyone top dollar for their trade for down payment funds. Wholesalers have been authorized to offer very liberal trade-in allowances so that each person who needs a down payment has one. This is a perfect opportunity to trade in and trade up and rebuild your credit. Trades can be made to lower your monthly payments. Your trade will be your down payment. In most cases you can just sign and drive with a trade. Just bring your vehicle registration and payment book, and Credit Amnesty 2011 will make the deal happen for you.

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Crime? It doesn't panic us

StatsCan study finds Canadians feel safe Westerners more wary

Statistics Canada says the vast majority of Canadians feel they're safe from crime.

The agency has released a study of Canadians aged 15 and older that says 93 per cent of those surveyed said they felt satisfied with their personal safety from crime.

The 2009 study produced results similar to those of the last survey done in 2004 — before the Conservatives took power and began their tough-on-crime campaign.

Crime rates overall have been falling for a decade.

Youth crime is one of the few areas that has risen, yet the study says slightly more younger Canadians were satisfied with their personal safety from crime than older Canadians — 94 per cent of those aged 15-24 compared to 90 per cent aged 65 years and older.

About 83 per cent of respondents said they were not worried when home alone at night, while 90 per cent who walked alone in their neighbourhoods at night said they felt safe doing so.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Safety zones

- The study indicates those living in Eastern Canada, where crime rates are generally lower, were more satisfied with their personal safety than Westerners, who form the base of Tory support.

Aid for AIDS. It's going swimmingly

▶ Dalhousie students Leanna Winberg — yes, that's her on the left — and Alex McPhedran fight the chills with a joke after their polar bear swim at Chocolate Lake in Halifax on Thursday.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

How to grin and polar-bear it

Several students from Dalhousie University left their winter woolies behind on Thursday — for a polar bear swim. It was all for a good cause. They plunged into some chilly water to mark World AIDS Day and to publicize the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Dare campaign, which aims to raise money and awareness for AIDS research and prevention in Africa.

Sex for young adults: It's a jungle out there

Modern life is complicated, and the sexual landscape for young adults is no exception.

That's the discovery of researchers at the University of Ottawa.

Friends with benefits, booty calls, hookups and one-night stands — these are just a few of the arrangements outlined in a new study exploring the sexual landscape among Canadians within the 18-24 age group.

And it found each relationship has specific ground rules when it comes to behaviour, communication, monogamy and secrecy.

The study, released Thursday, was published in the Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality.

"When we talk about casual sex, people use it as a blanket term to cover everything," said lead author Jocelyn Wentland, a PhD student in experimental psychology.

"But as this research shows, there's a lot going on in between."

And much of it is nothing like the one-night stand of the past, where people had a sexual encounter and never saw each other again, she added.

Friends with benefits, for example, refers to sex within the context of an ongoing friendship.

"Booty calls," she explained are for the sole purpose of sexual activity.

Friends have more at stake, so the terms and conditions, as well as the emotional terrain, are different.

Earlier studies have shown one-third to two-thirds of college and university students have engaged in the two types of relationships.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Not too 'casual'

- The research for the University of Ottawa study was based on a focus group of extensive interviews with 23 young adults, including sex educators.
- Lead author Jocelyn Wentland says the term "casual sex" oversimplifies the range of relationships going on today.
- Understanding the distinctions is important for the men and women participating in them.

MacKay's flight has Commons in a flap

Opposition MPs are accusing Defence Minister Peter MacKay of misleading the Commons over his use of a military helicopter to fly him out of a Newfoundland fishing lodge.

New reports indicate the pickup was orchestrated specifically to extract the minister from his fishing trip, "under the guise" of a training exercise.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mighty Mo's raise $36M

Movember, the global charity that encourages growing a moustache to raise funds for prostate cancer, says 246,060 Canadians — including MP Justin Trudeau — raised $36.6 million this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Trudeau's Mo

Ecstasy helped kill teen, police suspect

Police suspect an ecstasy-pill overdose contributed to the death of teenager following a weekend party in Calgary.

The 16-year-old boy and eight other teens were taken to hospital Saturday afternoon after suffering an adverse reaction to the drug.

The other teens were treated and released.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Consumer report

Canadians slowing their borrowing: Report

There are signs that Canadian consumers have slowed down their borrowing this year, after peaking in the fourth quarter of 2010.

A TransUnion analysis released Thursday found that average consumer debt, excluding mortgages, was $25,594 in the third quarter.

That's about where it has been throughout 2011, although up slightly from where it was in the third quarter of 2010.

That means Canadians are reluctant to add to their lines of credit, consumer and car loans and credit card debt as they face an uncertain economy that's eroding their confidence.

On the mortgage side, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corp. said earlier this week that the growth of mortgage loans has slowed down to an average of just under $160,000.

That reflects tougher lending rules imposed by Ottawa and a slowing economy, which has put downward pressure on house prices.

The agency also noted that mortgage insurance bought by homeowners facing high-ratio debts fell by about 10 per cent,

TransUnion is a firm that tracks consumer borrowing through credit cards, lines of credit and auto financing.

In its report Thursday, the financial analysis company said the third-quarter debt total is still about 1.7 per cent higher than in the same 2010 period but notes the pace of increases has slowed as the year has progressed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EBay eyes holiday shoppers

Popular online retail and auctions site touts QR shopping at temporary pop-up shop in London's trendy Soho district, just in time for Christmas

The news that eBay has set up shop seems like a bizarre, counter-intuitive business strategy. However, the pop-up store located on Dean Street in London's trendy Soho is eBay's first foray into multi-channel shopping, following the likes of Internet giants Amazon, who have tried something similar.

Of course, given that it's only open for five days — from December 1 through 5 — this is basically a perfectly timed publicity stunt, during the busiest period for Christmas shopping. Skepticism aside, the boutique does give less tech-savvy shoppers the opportunity to understand how QR shopping works. In layman terms, shoppers scan the QR barcode with their smartphone, which then takes them through to the eBay site where purchases are processed. It's that simple. Staff are on hand to help any technophobes out there.

What sets it apart from a traditional store is that one cannot physically purchase anything and there are no ringing tills — nor long lineups.

EBay spokesperson Antonia Pearson says, "It's great to have a physical manifestation of eBay to showcase our products and make people aware that we do sell brand-new packaged gifts — it's not all about bidding." METRO

Purchase power

- 10% of eBay's sales revenue is from mobile commerce.
- 60% of items are brand-new and sold through the Buy It Now format.
- EBay has also collaborated with major stores in both New York and San Francisco.

DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES)

▶ EBay's new pop-up store in London.

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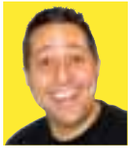
SHOPPERS DRUG MART

LET'S GET PHYSICAL, OR NOT ...

THE METRO LIST

MIKE BENHAIM
METRO



1 **Fan-tastic:** After a long game of "chicken," the NBA finally carved out a deal that barely anyone understands. My thoughts: You're a muscular six-foot-nine man making over $5 million for putting a ball in a 10-foot hoop. Please, just put on your free socks and sneakers, do your job, and maybe one day, you too can marry a Kardashian. Thanks.

2 **Costly Cancon:** Our beloved national broadcaster faces criticism once again. The Federal Court of Appeal ruled in favour of budget transparency, but CBC prez Hubert Lacroix still wants his annual $1.1-billion government subsidy. Lacroix says the money is necessary to maintain vital Canadian content like Hockey Night in Canada, local news and election night coverage. I say, "How much for just the hockey?"

3 **Free health care?:** A recent news story about exorbitant hospital parking fees quoted the Canada Health Act, which states that "Canadians should have access to health care without financial or other barriers." A moderate example is North York General Hospital in Toronto, where a day pass costs $23. It is not unusual for patients with complicated illnesses to be there for a month, which is $700. Then again, drug shortages, disgruntled personnel, and sub-par food ensure that they probably won't last that long anyway.

4 **High anxiety:** A study out of Cardiff University in Wales found that children with a high IQ at age 5-10 were more likely to experiment with drugs as adults. Dr. James White speculates that smarter people are simply more open to new experiences. My theory is that drug addicts in their 30s are more likely to lie about having a high IQ as a child.

5 **Pop history:** If you are turning 30 this week, the No. 1 song when you were born, which you were likely exposed to while in the womb, was Let's Get Physical by Olivia Newton-John. I just thought that might shed some light in therapy.

6 **Great ones:** Wayne Gretzky supposedly demanded 22-year-old daughter Paulina shut down her Twitter account because he found her photos to be distasteful. Even Gretzky admits to having looked at risqué photos of hot women before but maintains that none of them was anyone's daughter.

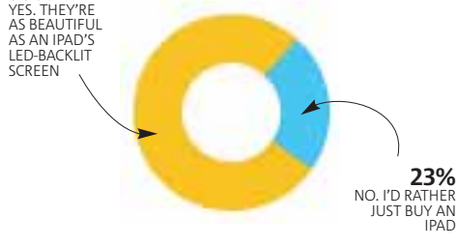
7 **True story:** On this day in 1969, Cindy Birdsong of the Supremes was kidnapped at knifepoint by a maintenance man in her building. She later escaped unharmed by jumping out of his moving car on the San Diego freeway. Wow! And people thought Diana Ross was special.

8 **Extreme couponing:** I suffer from "chronic buyer's remorse" as a result of family members who are always giddy with tales of their web-found bargains. I ignore emails from "deal"sites because I fail to see the use in an automatic toilet flusher, but someone informed me of a site that aggregates and sends you just one email containing only items you actually want. It's called Dealfart.com. Kudos to them for a name that pretty much sums it up.

More from Mike Benhaim at metronews.ca/backbeat

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Would you pay the equivalent of an iPad to save a polar bear?



Local tweets

- **@MsMah Honey:** Remember earlier in the year when I was engaged to a guy from winnipeg? That was weird.
- **@samreiss_:** Mackenzie Pierce stewed as Buck instructed the rickshaw kid. "Play it Again Sports downtown. And step on it. I need skates." #cflwives
- **@CarChen:** Randy Carlyle fired? But I wanted to see him return to #Winnipeg with Teemu !!! Could this be a sign he might be the #Jets coach in future?
- **@DalydeGagne:** Time for #Winnipeg to make mayor Katz and councillors like Swandel fully accountable for dealing with youth issues in our city.
- **@lhmcmillan:** @GrahamMcMillan There's a long list of restaurants I want to try around Winnipeg, yet I always go blank when asked this question. Argh!
- **@kylewGibby:** @EpicMealTime winnipeg had a first annual #baconfest , f--ken smart
- **@WeatherInThePeg:** Brisk wait for the bus this morning in #Winnipeg! Don't fret though, temps back to -5°C today and near 0°C for the weekend w/chc. of snow.

MARK WANNER/ST LOUIS ZOO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Daily Zoom

Raise a little hell

Endangered

In this photo provided by the St. Louis Zoo, an Ozark hellbender is shown developing in an egg.

The rare Ozark hellbender, an endangered amphibian found only in a few Missouri and Arkansas counties, has been successfully bred in captivity for the first time, offering new hope for the animal's survival, scientists said.

For 45 to 60 days after hatching, the tiny larvae will retain their yolk sack for nutrients and move very little. They eventually lose their external gills by the time they reach 1.5 to two years of age.

Hellbender not the worst moniker

Ozark hellbenders shown just after hatching. Also known by the colloquial names of "snot otter" and "old lasagna sides," hellbenders can grow to be two feet at five to eight years of age, the zoo said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

600

An Ozark hellbender at two weeks old. The zoo says rivers in south-central Missouri and northern Arkansas once supported up to 8,000 hellbenders. Today fewer than 600 exist in the world.

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Synopsis

So many movies were released last weekend for American Thanksgiving that it seems like there weren't any left for this week. With only limited new films in theatres, the Reel Guys take a look at what's at the multiplex already that could take home Oscar gold.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Could Meryl Streep take home another Oscar for her portrayal of Margaret Thatcher?

2 scene

Scene in brief

Movie website EmpireOnline.com is reporting director Frank Miller's planned remake of Mad Max will be a trilogy. Miller is helming the post-apocalyptic Mad Max: Fury Road, the first in the planned series. "We started with Fury Road, but we then started to do a second story and a third," the website quotes Miller's producing partner Doug Mitchell as saying. The original Mad Max starred a young Mel Gibson and hit theatres in 1979 and also spawned two sequels.

METRO

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Go ask Oscar

Meryl or Michelle, George or Ryan? The Reel Guys make their predictions

Richard: Mark, for me right now, the frontrunner for Best Actress is Michelle Williams. Her take on Marilyn Monroe in My Week with Marilyn is so eerily accurate it transcends mimicry. She really becomes Marilyn. I say right now, because The Iron Lady hasn't hit theatres yet. Word is the only way Williams can beat Meryl Streep playing Margaret Thatcher is if Streep decides not to allow herself to be nominated. Are their any surefire bets for you?

MB: Even with Meryl in the race, Williams will win because Hollywood looooooooves Marilyn Monroe, and Thatcher is an unsympathetic figure to a liberal community. I think George Clooney could be a lock for The Descendants. It's the most nuanced work he's ever done, and I think there's a feeling it's time he got that statue for his cumulative body of work. Who else might challenge him?

RC: I think Clooney deserves an Oscar for just being Clooney. He's our generation's Cary Grant and I loved that he didn't rely on his usual charm and likability in The Descendants. But how cool would it be if Ryan Gosling gave him a run. He had a great year with three high profile interesting roles to choose from. Me, I'd give it to him for his brilliant, menacing work in Drive.

MB: Brilliant, yes. But he won't win. The movie will be too violent for older academy voters. But I sense a strong contender from the same movie for Best Supporting Actor: Albert Brooks. I love when comedians play bad guys and Brooks was the most memorable baddie of the year.

RC: I would love Albert Brooks to win simply to hear his acceptance speech. If it's anything like his twitter feed it would be hilarious. I would also love to see Hugo have a shot at Best Picture. It's perfect for the Academy. It's a big beautiful movie about the magic of movies. It would be one for the history books; a kid's flick directed by Martin Scorsese as the year's big winner.

MB: The academy is always biased against kid's pictures even if it's one as magical as Hugo. Maybe it will be one of those instances where it won't win for Best Picture but Scorsese will take home the Best Direction award. Everyone would have to admit the direction was nothing short of ravishing.

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Hollywood's silent revolution

SUBMITTED

▶ Jean Dujardin and Bérénice Bejo star in The Artist.

There's Oscar buzz over a silent movie for the first time since the 1920s Audio changed everything

ANNE BRODIE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Michel Hazanavicius' The Artist is one of the season's most acclaimed films – a silent black and white fable about a movie matinee idol who fails to make the cut to talkies in 1927 Hollywood.

French actor Jean Dujardin won the Best Actor Palme D'or at Cannes for his portrayal of George Valentin, in which he brings the best of Gene Kelly and Cary Grant to his own inimitable style. Valentin, a victim of the sound revolution, loses everything he has, but unbeknownst to him, a young actress he befriended secretly keeps an eye out for him. It's reminiscent of John Gilbert's story.

Gilbert was one of the silent era's greatest film stars whose career reportedly collapsed with the advent of sound, and whose former lover, Greta Garbo, intervened unsuccessfully to restore his image and career. He died of a heart attack at age 36. It was a tragedy with parallels to The Artist. In many ways it's a Hollywood fable for adults.

The French cast and crew shot in old Hollywood, often in the exact locations of the story. It looks authentic, as though it was made right then and there in 1927, if not for the modern gloss and crisp, high definition. Dujardin was thrilled to step into Tinseltown's history.

"The story was more beautiful for this. It was thrilling to film in the Orpheum on the actual sites, and was extremely motivating, especially they had talks prior to that that we would be filming in Hungary or Romania. So on top of being able to film in Hollywood, the place is extremely special. It's almost a religion to be in a movie in the street there."

Oscar whispers have been loud and clear since The Artist screened at Cannes and Toronto. Dujardin has heard those whispers and is conscious of the love the film has inspired. "It's almost like Michel found the magical formula access code sitting in front of everyone's nose."

We've been pronouncing Steve Buscemi's name wrong this whole time

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Steve Buscemi. That's pronounced "boo-SEM-i."

NATE JONES
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

Do you make a habit of watching SNL promos? Of course not — who would want to watch two people nervously stand around trading awkward quips for two interminable minutes?

However, you should watch the promotional clips for this week's episode, hosted by Steve Buscemi, for one simple reason: It turns out we've been pronouncing Buscemi's name wrong for his entire career.

Yes, looks like it's "boo-SEM-i," not "boo-SHEM-i."

We're sorry, Steve. This is so embarrassing!

The actor, who appears in the TV series Boardwalk Empire, has starred in such films as Igor, Fargo and The Big Lebowski.

Finding his balance

Comic Patton Oswalt explores his serious side in Young Adult

SUBMITTED

▶ Patton Oswalt relished the opportunity to take on a different kind of role.

Funnyman Patton Oswalt says he dug deep for a serious turn in director Jason Reitman's Up In the Air follow-up Young Adult, spending months with an acting coach to work out the complex emotional baggage of his physically disabled character.

Raves for Oswalt's performance are already pouring in, with the stand-up comic set to be honoured Wednesday with an acting award at the Whistler Film Festival.

Young Adult — which hits theatres Dec. 16 — reunites the Montreal-born Reitman with his Juno screenwriter Diablo Cody, and stars Oscar-winner Charlize Theron as a morally bereft writer of young adult novels.

Oswalt, best known as Spence from The King of Queens, plays a man whose legs were damaged by a brutal high school beating. The self-described acting "neophyte" admits to having had some qualms about the tricky role.

"That's what I was most worried about — that I would kind of fumble some of the transitions between the darkness and then the lightness."
PATTON OSWALT

"Diablo wrote such a good script and such a nuanced script that there were a million ways to steer it in the wrong direction," says Oswalt, whose increasingly diverse credits include HBO Canada's Bored to Death, The Movie Network/Movie Central's United States of Tara and the Adult Swim series The Heart, She Holler.

"Just when I first sat down and read the script I was like, 'Oh boy, I don't want to fumble this.' It's the combination of, 'Oh I'm so thrilled to get offered this,' and 'Oh man, I don't want to mess this up.'"

Oswalt's Matt Freehauf was savagely beaten by jocks as a teen, leaving his legs permanently damaged and forcing him to walk with a brace. Matt serves as a moral compass for Theron's deluded character Mavis Gary, who returns to her hometown looking to relive her glory days and rekindle a romance with her now married ex-boyfriend, played by A Gifted Man's Patrick Wilson.

Oswalt says he consulted an acting coach and a physical therapist to prepare for the role, and thought a lot about Matt's troubled backstory and how that must have shaped his upbringing.

"And not just the incident that scars him but what he went through to recover from it, which I think probably shaped his personality and worldview just as much as the damage that the attack did," Oswalt says by phone from Los Angeles.

"I just wanted less and less to have to think about so I could be more present in the scenes with Charlize.

"She's a really instinctual actor and I really didn't want to be sitting there with eight other thoughts on my head while she's just rolling with it."

All that work appears to be paying off.

Several early reviews have singled out Oswalt's performance as a standout, with the Whistler prize seen by some as a precursor to a possible Oscar nomination for supporting actor.

"The whole thing just took me by surprise," Oswalt says of the multiple kudos. "It's extremely gratifying and kind of stupefying at the same time, I don't quite know what to think of it."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Movie reviews See it twice ◍◍◍◍◍ | See it now ◍◍◍◍
Worth watching ◍◍◍ | Yawn ◍◍ | Don't bother ◍

Margin Call
Genre: Drama
Director: J.C. Chandor
Stars: Zachary Quinto, Stanley Tucci, Kevin Spacey, Martin Baker
◍◍◍◍

Members of the public who suffered great personal losses in the economic meltdown weren't the only ones in pain. There was a special place in office tower hell for fat cats behind the meltdown that included survivor guilt, fear, anxiety and thoughts of suicide. Chandor's excruciating 24 hours with such a team is a smart and worthy ride.
ANNE BRODIE

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC.2 TO THURS., DEC. 8. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

WINNIPEG

Cinema City McGillivray
2190 McGillivray Blvd., 204-269-9981

50/50 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:10-9:55
The Big Year (G) Fri-Thu 3:35-9:20
Contagion (STC) Fri-Thu 2:10-4:45-7:55-10:30
Crazy, Stupid, Love. (PG) Fri-Thu 4-9:40
Dolphin Tale (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:20-6:30-9:10
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2: 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 9
The Help (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-10
The Ides of March (14A) Fri-Thu 2:20-4:50-7:50-10:20
In Time (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7-9:40
Johnny English Reborn (PG) Fri-Thu 2:30-5-7:30-10:10
The Lion King 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-6:20
Moneyball (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:15
The Smurfs (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-6:10
The Three Musketeers 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:55-7:40-10:25
What's Your Number? (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-6:45

Cinema City Northgate
1399 McPhillips Street, 204-334-6234

50/50 (14A) Fri 4:20-7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:20-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:10
Contagion (STC) Fri-Sun 9 Mon-Thu 7:30
Dolphin Tale (G) Fri 4-6:30 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:30 Mon-Thu 5
The Help (PG) Fri 3:50-7:10 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:50
The Ides of March (14A) Fri 3:40-6:10-8:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-6:10-8:30 Mon-Thu 5:30-8
In Time (PG) Fri 4:30-7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:20
Johnny English Reborn (PG) Fri 4:10-6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:40-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:40
Moneyball (PG) Fri-Sun 8:20 Mon-Thu 7:20
The Smurfs (G) Fri 3:40-6 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-6 Mon-Thu 4:50
The Three Musketeers (PG) Fri 4:20-6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:20-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:40

Cinematheque
304-100 Arthur, 204-925-3457

No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Tue
The Tree of Life (PG) Wed-Thu 7
World on a Wire (STC) Fri-Sun 7

City Cinema - Northgate
1399 McPhillips, 204-334-6234

50/50 (14A) Fri 4:20-7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:20-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:10
Contagion (STC) Fri-Sun 9 Mon-Thu 7:30
Dolphin Tale (G) Fri 4-6:30 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:30 Mon-Thu 5
The Help (PG) Fri 3:50-7:10 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:50
The Ides of March (14A) Fri 3:40-6:10-8:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-6:10-8:30 Mon-Thu 5:30-8
In Time (PG) Fri 4:30-7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:20
Johnny English Reborn (PG) Fri 4:10-6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:40-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:40
Moneyball (PG) Fri-Sun 8:20 Mon-Thu 7:20
The Smurfs (G) Fri 3:40-6 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-6 Mon-Thu 4:50
The Three Musketeers (PG) Fri 4:20-6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:20-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:40

Famous Players Kildonan Place
1555 Regent Ave W, 204-663-2166

Arthur Christmas (G) Fri 4-6:30-9 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:30-9 Mon-Thu 6-8:30
Happy Feet Two (G) Fri 3:40-6:20-8:50 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-6:20-8:50 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:50
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 4:20-7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:10-8:40
The Muppets (G) Fri 3:50-6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:20
Puss in Boots (G) Fri 4:10-6:40-9 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:10-6:40-9 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 4-7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:30

Grant Park 8 Cinemas
1120 Grant Ave., 204-453-4084

Arthur Christmas (G) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 3:55-6:45-9:45 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:45-3:55-6:45-9:45 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 3:55-6:45-9:45
The Descendants (14A) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 3:45-7:10-9:55 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 12:55-3:45-7:10-9:55 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 3:45-7:10-9:55
Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:35-6:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:50-3:35-6:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:35-6:50
Hugo 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:30-6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
J. Edgar (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:20-6:35-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:35-3:20-6:35-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:20-6:35-9:35
Like Crazy (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4:05-7:15-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:05-4:05-7:15-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:05-7:15-10:10
The Muppets (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 4-7-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1-4-7-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4-7-10
Tower Heist (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 9:50
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:40-6:40-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:40-6:40-9:40

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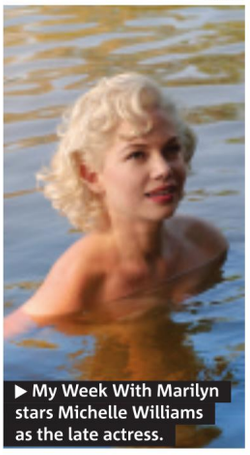

▶ My Week With Marilyn stars Michelle Williams as the late actress.

Born to Be Wild 3D (G) Sat-Sun 12 Mon-Tue 11:15 Wed 10 Thu 1:30
Egypt 3D: Secrets of the Mummies (STC) Wed 1:30 Thu 10
Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk (STC) Fri 10
Hubble 3D (G) Thu 11:15
Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees (STC) Wed 12:15
Real Steel: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri 1:45-7:15 Sat 2:30-7:15 Sun 2:30
Tornado Alley 3D (G) Fri 12:30-6 Sat 1:15-6 Sun 1:15 Mon-Tue 12:30 Wed 11:15
The Ultimate Wave Tahiti 3D (STC) Fri 11:15 Mon-Tue 1:45
Van Gogh: Brush With Genius (STC) Thu 12:15

Landmark Globe Cinema
393 Portage Ave, 204-943-1583

Melancholia (14A) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-6:50-9:30 Mon-Tue 6:50-9:30 Thu 6:50-9:30
The Skin I Live In (18A) Fri 7:20-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:50-7:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:45
The Way (PG) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40

Landmark Towne Cinema 8
301 Notre Dame Avenue, 204-947-2848

Arthur Christmas (G) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
Happy Feet Two (G) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
Hugo (PG) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:20
Immortals (18A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:30-7:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:30
The Muppets (G) Fri 6:50-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:45-6:50-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:15
Puss in Boots (G) Fri 7:15-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:45-7:15-9:15 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:15
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30

SilverCity Polo Park
815 St. James Street, 204-774-1001

Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:35-3-5:25-7:55-10:20 Mon-Thu 2:15-4:45-7:25-9:55
The Descendants (14A) Fri-Sun 11:30-2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:35-7:25-10:10
Happy Feet Two (G) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:15 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:20
Happy Feet Two: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 2-4:30-7-9:30
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:40-10:25 Mon-Tue 1:55-4:40-7:30-10:20 Wed 1:20-4:05-7:30-10:20 Thu 1:55-4:40-7:30-10:20
Immortals 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:55-5:35-8:15-10:55 Mon-Thu 2:25-5:10-7:50-10:30
J. Edgar (PG) Fri-Sun 6:50-10 Mon-Tue 6:55-10 Wed 10 Thu 6:55-10
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:45 Mon-Thu 2:40-4:55-7:20-9:40
The Muppets (G) Fri-Sun 11:35-2:15-4:55-7:35-10:15 Mon-Tue 1:50-4:25-7:10-9:45 Wed 4:25-7:10-9:45 Thu 1:50-4:25-7:10-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
My Week With Marilyn (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:40 Mon-Tue 2:10-5:05-7:35-10:05 Wed 5:05-7:35-10:05 Thu 2:10-5:05-7:35-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Puss in Boots (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10 Mon-Thu 2:45-5-7:15-9:35
Rodelinda (STC) Sat 11:30
Tower Heist (PG) Fri 2-4:35-7:20-9:55 Sat 4:35-7:20-9:55 Sun 2-4:35-7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:25-5:10-8-10:45 Mon-Tue 2:05-4:50-7:40-10:30 Wed 2:05-4:50-10:30 Thu 2:05-4:50-7:40-10:30 Fri 1:25-4:10-7-9:45 Sat 1:25-4:30-7:25-10:15 Sun 1:25-4:10-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:10-7-9:50
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Fri-Sun 1:30-3:50-6:10-8:30-10:50 Mon-Thu 1:20-3:35-5:50-8:10-10:25
White Christmas (G) Wed 7

SilverCity St. Vital
110-1225 St Mary's Rd, 204-256-3901

Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Mon 1:10-3:50-6:30-9:10 Tue-Thu 3:50-6:30-9:10
Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Fri-Mon 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:40 Tue-Thu 4:20-7:10-9:40
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 1-4-7-10 Tue-Thu 4-7-10
Immortals (18A) Fri-Mon 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Tue-Thu 4:10-7:10-10:10
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri-Mon 2-4:50-7:40-10:30 Tue-Thu 4:50-7:40-10:30
The Muppets (G) Fri-Mon 1:50-4:40-7:20-10:20 Tue-Thu 4:40-7:20-10:20
Puss in Boots (G) Fri-Mon 12:50-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10 Tue-Thu 5:30-7:50-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Rodelinda (STC) Sat 11:30
Tower Heist (PG) Fri-Mon 1:20-4:10-6:40-9:20 Tue-Wed 4:10-6:40-9:20 Thu 4:10-9:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Sat 4:30-7:30-10:30 Sun-Mon 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Tue-Thu 4:30-7:30-10:30 Fri-Mon 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Tue-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:50

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Wait, motherhood breeds swagger?

Fresh off the runway from Tuesday night's television special, Victoria's Secret moms share their thoughts

It's not just the push-up bras or feathered wings that give some top Victoria's Secret models their sexy swagger: It's their off-the-catwalk lives as mothers that give them their confidence and signature curves, they say.

Miranda Kerr, Doutzen Kroes and Alessandra Ambrosio have all been crowned VS Angels, so they are among the half-dozen models to get the best outfits and most face time during the lingerie giant's televised annual fashion show, which aired Tuesday night on CBS.

Backstage, wearing their short, hot-pink satin robes, they're also the ones attracting the most attention.

What were they talking about with all those photographers, makeup artists and other models?

Nutrition, exercise and juggling their jet-setting careers with their little ones.

Kroes and Kerr have bona fide babies, both giving birth to sons last January. Ambrosio's daughter was born in 2008.

But motherhood hasn't slowed them down at all: Kerr even got to wear the coveted diamond-covered bra. "I was asked to do it after I gave birth," said Kerr. "That was awesome. It's such an honour."

Ed Razek, chief marketing officer for Victoria's Secret parent Limited Brands, has long taken the position that the company wants feminine, womanly models, because that's who looks best in the lingerie.

"It's true, a number of our models have come back from having a baby more beautiful than ever. I know that some of them have used the show date as a goal to get back in shape and, I think, having a baby has given them a sense of confidence, an 'I can do anything' attitude that is reflected on the runway."

One thing model moms can do is make money.

Forbes ranks Gisele Bundchen, Heidi Klum, Kate Moss, Adriana Lima and Ambrosio — all often photographed with their children — as the top earners of the industry this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP PHOTO/BRAD BARKET, FILE

Doutzen Kroes

It was empowering to mould her new figure into shape, said Kroes, 27, who did "abs, abs, lots of ab exercises all the time." Her body isn't quite the same now as it was pre-baby, and she hopes it never goes back.

"I wish every woman can feel so sexy after birth. It's your body, but it's also a feeling."

On the surface, her two worlds might not seem like a perfect match, but they are, she said.

"You get your hair and makeup done!"

She also has a lot of control over her schedule. Even if she needs to be on location for a few days, it'll never be longer, and then she'll have many days off, Kroes explained.

"It's not a 9-to-5 job."

She often can bring her son, Phyllon, on set, though she only does that when working locally.

"I don't want him to become a 'traveller' when he is still so young."

AP PHOTO/BRAD BARKET, FILE

Miranda Kerr

Pilates, yoga, weight training with resistance bags were all key factors in Kerr's new-mom fitness routine, said the 28-year-old, and they're all things that can be done in her living room.

"I do have less time, but I do try to exercise every day. I exercise at home with my son playing around with his toys on the floor."

She says she hopes Flynn's watching and that he'll learn to incorporate physical activity into his daily life without a thought. The same goes for a healthy diet. Flynn is too young to watch the Victoria's Secret show now, of course, but Kerr will let him see her runway photos later.

"I'm sure he'll be happy his mom had wings."

AP PHOTO/BRAD BARKET, FILE

Alessandra Ambrosio

Her catwalk costumes are a little less risqué now, but she's not ready to hang up the Brazilian-cup bras and short shorts.

"I'm definitely more proud of my body now," she said.

"Our bodies are changed as we get older, and I'm more conscious of it now. Now, I'm a woman doing the show, not a girl."

Part of that is giving up chocolate in the weeks before the show; she didn't always have to do that.

And part of it is being able to walk in heels without teetering. She's also learned to ham it up for the camera and the audience.

Ambrosio got her Angel wings in 2004, when she was the first spokesmodel for the then-new Pink collection, which is loungewear geared for a more youthful customer.

That's when she felt she was "a flirty and cheeky teenager" versus the sexy woman she is at age 30.

You can buy actual Dunder Mifflin paper products now

CASSANDRA GARRISON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

You may not be able to work at The Office, but you can at least buy paper from the fictional company Dunder Mifflin.

The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reports that NBC's parent company Comcast and the Staples-owned website Quill.com have reached a licensing deal that will put Dunder Mifflin-brand paper products up for sale on the site.

The product packaging will feature familiar slogans from the show like "Our motto is, 'Quability First'" and "Get Your Scrant on."

Big-box retailers like Staples are often mentioned on the show as Dunder Mifflin's biggest competition. In real-life though, the two companies are now partners, much to the delight of paper-loving Office fans.

According to the WSJ, Dunder Mifflin products are much pricier than private-label copy paper, but can you really put a price on the paper that launched Michael Scott to executive fame?

FLICKR: TOMDOBB

A whole other planet

On Terra Nova, Stephen Lang says he's covering new ground

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Actor Stephen Lang is getting attention for his work playing a gruff, militaristic leader shepherding a group of humans through a foreign landscape filled with deadly creatures. No, not Avatar.

While Lang's new gig as Commander Taylor on Terra Nova — in which he leads a pilgrimage of humans 85 million years into the past to colonize an alternate earth — might bear some resemblance to the 2009 blockbuster that shot him to fame, he's quick to point out the differences.

And if you want to typecast him, he's fine with that, too.

Were you reluctant to take this part because of similarities people might draw with Avatar?

Obviously, there's a certain similarity in their backgrounds.

I just felt that the trajectory that the characters take is so vastly different, that after a certain breaking in period you would see Taylor as his own distinct personality, as opposed to being related to Avatar.

Are you at all afraid of typecasting after Avatar and then this role?

You know, I'm 59 years old, and if I'm typed right now, I'm typed as a charismatic, macho, silver fox. So, if that's the case, I can live with that (laughs).

How much of Taylor's backstory did they let you in on beforehand?

We've discussed backstory from day one on this. Even in our initial meetings we talked about how this guy comes to be, and who he is.

Backstory emerges as fact as it becomes necessary. I can give you three possibilities of what Taylor went through in the year 2139.

And whatever will serve our story best is the one that we will adopt, because it only becomes fact when it hits the screen, when it gets written in, you know?

What was your impression when you first saw the pilot episode?

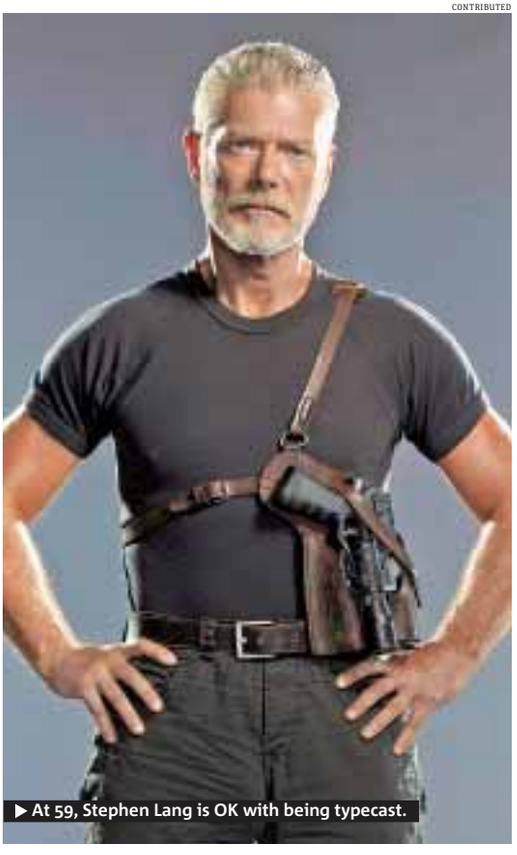
I thought that we were on our — how do you put it? It's a maiden voyage. There's a certain caution that goes with it. There's a certain finding your way, as the show finds its own sort of tone. I liked it. You see fully-formed characters. It tells a story. I thought the effects worked as well as we wanted them to work.

But as in all the work I've ever done, I feel there's room for advancement in it, clearly. And so, you know, it made me proud, but also anxious to do better.

How much does it help with your performance when you're on location, and not on a sound stage as much as you would be on another TV show?

It helps in ways you're probably not even conscious of. I mean, just being out in a pristine environment — that's where you're supposed to be. It's one less artificial element to have to create.

CONTRIBUTED



▶ At 59, Stephen Lang is OK with being typecast.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Cory Monteith

Glee hitting the right notes

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

After a bumpy — and highly criticized — second season, Glee looks to be back on track, and according to series star Cory Monteith, a lot of that has to do with how the show is choosing its music.

What kind of music are they giving you for your character?

Oh, man I'm so excited (looks to his publicist). Can I? No, I can't. There is one song that I cover that is typically like a female vocalized-pop song from the '80s, and it has been pared down into this acoustic-slow-piano wonderful ballad, almost. They have done some really great stuff with music this season especially. It's really influenced and inspired by the story-lines. Whereas before — last season we did tribute episodes, things like the music was implying the storyline.

Are you saying last season they did a lot of stuff that was more current just because they could?

Right. I feel that in the second season we got the opportunity to do whatever artist we wanted to cover because the show was big, and so, you know, there was a lot of, you know, very expository, very kind of larger-than-life numbers and things. And this year, they have a very specific idea of where they want the storyline and where they want the characters to go, and then they choose the songs around that. So it is very much the songs are inspired by the storyline this year, which is great because as an actor you have so much to do because of why you're singing it.

There was a lot of talk over the summer about what happens to characters like yours, that are seniors, after they graduate this year. Has that been on your mind at all?

Well, everybody graduates eventually, but I really don't know. We haven't really had that conversation. It's been, you know, discussed that Glee cast members will graduate, but I really don't know when ... If I graduate, you know, then I move on to do other things.

TV Picks

High school sweethearts?

COMEDY. If you missed Thursday's debut over on Fox, you can catch the new sitcom I Hate My Teenage Daughter Friday on Global. The show centres on best friends and single mothers Annie (Jaime Pressly) and Nikki (Katie Finneran), who worry their daughters are turning into exactly the type of cruel girls who bullied them in high school. (Global)

▶ I Hate My Teenage Daughter

Suspicious behaviour

DRAMA. Kudos to those of you sticking with Ringer despite the erratic highs and lows of this hit-and-miss rookie show. You've shown great loyalty. Let's hope the show rewards us with a bit more story development and a lot less melodrama. On Friday, Henry realizes he must work with Bridget to learn more about Gemma's disappearance, and Malcolm shares his suspicions about Charlie with the police. (Global)

Comedy classics return

STAND-UP. Comedy legends new and old are all over the dial Saturday. Canada's reigning stand-up king takes the stage in Russell Peters: The Green Card Tour Live From the O2 Arena over on The Comedy Network. Meanwhile, The Ed Sullivan Comedy Special on PBS features the indelible comic stylings of Jack Benny, Bob Hope, Red Skelton, George Carlin and Richard Pryor.

Holiday help

DESIGN. Get a jump on holiday party planning on Saturday with the help of merry tips from The Party. Samantha Pynn of the show Pure Design visits some of her favourite designers for holiday inspiration. (HGTV)

Great flying pumpkins

SPORTS? Punkin Chunkin is back. Mythbusters hosts Kari Byron, Tory Belleci and Grant Imahara helm the pumpkin-throwing event. Participants build machines, air cannons and catapults to hurl the gourds as far as possible. (Discovery Channel Canada) **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

MJ's ex-doc

Murray may be home for Xmas

PRISON OVERCROWDING. Despite being sentenced to four years in prison for involuntary manslaughter, Dr. Conrad Murray could be home for Christmas, according to Radar Online.

The disgraced doc was given the maximum sentence for his role in the death of Michael Jackson, but because of overcrowding problems in California prisons, it's expected that Murray will serve out the bulk of his sentence under house arrest.

"Dr. Murray's lawyers are actually relieved that Judge Pastor didn't sentence him to community service, like Lindsay Lohan is doing at the morgue," a source says. METRO

Celebrity tweets

Shooting 30 Rock in 212 today. I'm working the streets again...

@AlecBaldwin

@rosemcgowan

On my way to a wild animal park! Yippee!

@michaelianblack

How am I supposed to work when there's so much internet?

@SarahKSilverman

Let's get into the Christmas Spirit & lie about how we got pregnant.

Is Scarlett still in love with Ryan?

Her post-divorce romance with Sean Penn didn't pan out Now she's apparently got a hate-on for her ex's new squeeze — Blake Lively

Even though her marriage to Ryan Reynolds ended last year, Scarlett Johansson is still reportedly preoccupied with his love life — and sources say she absolutely loathes his latest girlfriend, Blake Lively, according to Us Weekly.

"Scarlett is pissed that he's not under her spell anymore," a source says. "She realized what a great catch Ryan [Reynolds] was."

Adding insult to injury? The fact that while Johansson's post-divorce romance with Sean Penn fizzled out, Reynolds and Lively seem to be going strong.

"Things are great [for Blake and Ryan]," says the source.

"They haven't had a fight yet." METRO

"Scarlett is pissed that he's not under her spell anymore. She realized what a great catch Ryan [Reynolds] was."
SOURCE

▶ Scarlett Johansson

Just how old is Beyoncé's bump?

Though it was previously reported that Beyoncé's baby was due in February, some are speculating that she could actually be giving birth as early as this month, according to Hollyscoop.

A recently released behind-the-scenes video shows Beyoncé referring to herself as six months pregnant — only the video was shot in September. "Right now I'm actually shooting the video for Countdown and I'm six months pregnant, pretending that my stomach is flat in body suits," Beyoncé says in the video. "But thank God you can't really tell from the front, but when I turn to the side ... oh baby! Oh baby!" METRO

▶ Beyoncé

Brit to wed?

There's been plenty of speculation about when Britney Spears and Jason Trawick might take the next step toward marriage, and it's reportedly going to be very soon.

"They've been talking about marriage for a long time," a source tells People magazine. "It would be surprising if they are not engaged by the end of the year." In fact, the engagement is so close that, according to the source, Trawick has already picked out a ring. METRO

Ashton back into single life

▶ Ashton Kutcher

Ashton Kutcher appeared to make the most of his newly single status while home in Iowa for the Thanksgiving holiday, according to Us Weekly.

The Two and a Half Men star was spotted with his entourage at several bars around Iowa City over the long weekend.

"He was drinking beer, and girls kept coming up to him," says a source of Kutcher's night out on Friday.

"He loved the attention. Girls were hugging him and shaking his hand."

And it continued Saturday, according to another source: "He was swarmed by girls. A few tried to convince him to go to a strip club, but he declined." METRO

"He was drinking beer and girls kept coming up to him. He loved the attention."
SOURCE

AN ALTERNATIVE TO THOSE YULETIDE CAROLS

SOUND CHECK

ALAN CROSS
SCENE
@METRONEWS.CA

There are better choices than Winter Wonderland. Let us help you find a few for the season.

Chances are your city has at least one radio station that flipped to an all-Christmas format last month. This is a HUGE ratings-getter, especially for those stations that get played in offices and workplaces.

But how many times can a person hear Jose Feliciano sing Feliz Navidad before insanity creeps in? And please, let's not hear any talk of season music from Justin Bieber or Susan Boyle.So what is a rock fan supposed to do when it comes to Yuletide music? I'm glad you asked.

Black Label Society: Glorious Christmas Songs That Will Make Your Black Label Heart Feel Good. Hail Santa! (out now): Zakk Wylde, one of Ozzy's favourite guitarists, offers up a three-track instrumental EP. O Little Town of Bethleham never sounded like this before.

Bowling for Soup: Merry Flippin' Christmas Vol. 1 and 2 (out now): These Texas goofballs have updated and expanded their 2009 Xmas EP that includes both classics and, um, soon-to-be classics.

Rob Halford: Winter Songs (Out now): Who knew that Judas Priest's leather-clad front dude had such a soft spot for the Yuletide season?

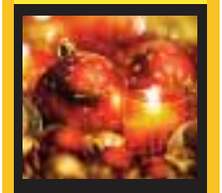
She & Him: A Very She & Him Christmas (out now): On one hand, Zooey Deschanel (the "She" in this band) seems to be doing well with her TV series, New Girl. On the other, she and Death Cab for Cutie frontman Ben Gibbard separated last month after two years of marriage. Keep that in mind as you listen to songs like I'll Be Home for Christmas and Blue Christmas.

Scott Weiland: The Most Wonderful Time of the Year (out now): During an interview we did 18 months ago, the Stone Temple Pilots' singer dropped a bomb (including on his record company people, who were in attendance) that he wanted to release a Christmas record. The album features pretty straight renditions of the classics, often in a jazz style.

ALAN IS THE HOST OF THE RADIO SHOW THE SECRET HISTORY OF ROCK. REACH HIM AT ALAN@ALANCROSS.CA

3 life

More great tips



1. Decide on whether your dinner is going to be served "family style" or "plated" and make certain that you have the right plates and silverware.
2. Select dishes that allow you to do as much advance preparation as possible.
3. Set the mood by considering music, lighting and table decor. SUPPERWORKS

For great winter-friendly recipes, visit metronews.ca/food or scan this code.

Holiday cheer in a bottle

PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

While we like to think we watch our weight with Jennifer Hudson precision, as the weeks creep closer to Christmas, the call of an ice cold glass of cream liqueur gets louder.

I like how the creamier side of booze has found a permanent home snuggled up to the holiday season. Typically sweet with a support system of some sort of spirit, it really is the liquid personification of making merry.

I'm betting most of you will think only of Baileys ($26.49 - $30.80) when it comes to a delectable creamer. Famous as it is, the Irish whiskey-based classic has plenty of competition with many modern variations on the theme hitting store shelves.

St-Rémy à la Crème ($26.99 - $28.98) is the newest kid on the rack. Made with a soothing base of French brandy, its snow white creaminess drinks with the silky consistency of vanilla ice cream.

Once opened, a cream liquor will last about two years if refrigerated. That's if the bottle's contents survives until New Year's.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Deck the halls and entertain with ease

Joni Lien and Chris Wood, founders of Ontario-based business SupperWorks, offer their Top 6 tips to make any dinner party jolly

ISTOCK.COM

▶ Above all, remember to enjoy yourself at the party.

The folks at SupperWorks know a thing or two about entertaining. At their 16 Ontario locations they've been taking the "work out of supper" since 2005 by creating delicious recipes, doing the shopping, the washing, the chopping and the clean-up so that customers can prepare delicious, wholesome meals at home without the time and without any hassle. Don't live in Ontario? No worries. SupperWorks delivers right across Canada.

Here are Lien and Wood's tips to make your party a smash.

Plan ahead

Although it may seem obvious, the top entertainment tip for any dinner party is to plan it out. From menu to dinnerware and beverages, planning translates into a successful dinner party.

Check for allergies

Check with your guests in advance to see if they have any food allergies, likes, dislikes or if they are following a particular diet, and adjust your menu accordingly. You may want to offer a vegetarian and a gluten free option.

Be practical

Design your menu around their preferences and your kitchen. A main course and two sides that all require heating in the oven at three different temperatures is not practical if you want to get all three dishes on the table at once.

Stick to what you know

Try not to tackle too many new recipes when entertaining. Stick to what you know and do well. If you do want to serve a new recipe, consider picking up an entrée or sides from somewhere like SupperWorks. SupperWorks entrées serve four to six people and are proven winners when it comes to taste and convenience.

Do what restaurants do

Chill your plates for dishes that will be served cold and heat your plates for dishes that will be served hot. It's a small thing but it makes a big impact. Giving your plates 30 minutes in the fridge before serving keeps your cold dishes cold, and giving your plates five minutes in a 350° oven keeps your hot dishes hot.

Enjoy yourself

Remember that a dinner party is a great time for socializing with friends and family, and enjoying the season. TO LEARN ABOUT SUPPERWORKS, VISIT SUPPERWORKS.COM

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HOLIDAY 2011 gift guide

Do you hear what I hear?

You will if you receive one of these gift ideas for the audiophile in your life MP3's, headphones, gadgets

MIKE YAWNEY
FOR METRO

Whether you are listening to tunes in the comfort of your home or on public transit through headphones, music can help anyone get into the holiday spirit.

Here are a few gift ideas for the audiophile in your life.

Apple iPod Touch — starting at $199

Apple continues to dominate the MP3 player market. Year after year the iPod Touch is the best-selling MP3 player. There is a reason for that. The device is well-designed with a large touchscreen, which not only plays music but hundreds of thousands of apps and games. It's like an iPhone … minus the phone!

Sony A Series Walkman — $199

A 2.8-inch touchscreen is your window to the world of music. Not sure of the lyrics to your favourite song? The A series Walkman lets you upload lyric files that will display in sync with the music. You can also play video files, display photos, listen to FM radio and record personal notes.

SanDisk Sansa Clip Zip — starting at $49.99

A simple MP3 player loaded with features. The Sansa Clip Zip gets its name from the clip on the back, which makes it easy to attach to your workout clothes at the gym. On the front, you will find a colour display so you always know what song is playing. It also has very simple controls to guide you through the menus. Not only can you play music but the Sansa Clip Zip also has a built-in FM radio, support for audiobooks and podcasts, a voice recorder and a stopwatch. Great price for such a feature-laden device.

From top: Apple iPod Touch, starting at $199, SanDisk Sansa Clip Zip, middle, starting at $49.99, and Pioneer X-SMC3, right, $369.99.

Monster Beats Studio by Dr. Dre — $329

Two big names come together in one set of on-ear headphones. Monster (known for high-end audio/video cables) and Dr. Dre have teamed up to bring these high-definition headphones to market. Known for their superior sound quality, these Beats headphones have a unique trifold design to ensure they fold for easy storage when not in use. They also feature Cloudtalk technology for hands-free calling!

iHome iD85, $139.99, and SkunkJuice Earbuds, $35.99, below right.

SkunkJuice Earbuds — $35.99

Funny name but a great idea! These earbuds are designed for sharing music. Patented magnetic connection technology allows up to four sets of SkunkJuice earbuds to connect together into a single audio input on an MP3 player. No more sharing earbuds! The perfect gift for teens.

Pioneer X-SMC3 — $369.99

Why keep the music bottled up! Spread some sound around your home. The Pioneer X-SMC3 will do just that. This high-end music system sounds amazing, pumping out some decent bass. Wirelessly stream music from your iOS device via Airplay, or connect your favourite MP3 player with a cable. Since the system is connected to your home network you can listen to thousands of Internet radio stations. You can also stream music via Bluetooth with an optional adapter.

iHome iD85 — $139.99

It's always easier to wake up to the sound of music. Dock your iPhone, iPod or iPad to the iD85 and let it recharge overnight. The dock features dual alarms so two people can rely on the device for their wakeup call. And for all you lazybones out there, you can automatically sync the clock with the time on your iPhone, iPod or iPad.

Monster Beats Studio by Dr. Dre, $329, top left, and Sony A Series Walkman, $199, above.

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No need for a Silent Night

With these choices for the musical enthusiast on your gift list From Lady Gaga to Alvin And The Chipmunks

KEITH CARMAN
FOR METRO

Rounding up a year's worth of extraordinary music is never an easy undertaking. With seemingly as many genres sprouting up as there are grains of sand in the Sahara, something is surely to be missed.

Tougher still? Picking out one of those gems for the music enthusiast on our gift list. Paring down the style only seems to open up a Pandora's box of who's who, who's hot and who's not.

In an effort to provide clarity, simplicity and a defibrillator to your ego, try a few of these tested, respected and occasionally obvious albums from the past few months or slated to be released just prior to the holidays.

Pop freaks know how much of a marvel Lady Gaga's Born This Way (Interscope) was upon its release earlier this year. For those who might already own it, however, check out Born This Way: The Remix, an unsubtle re-imagining of that explosive affair.

On a more soulful level, anticipation for chanteuse Rhianna's sixth work Talk That Talk (Def Jam) has been stirring heavily alongside the likes of Mary J. Blige's 10th full-length My Life II — The Journey Continues (Act 1) (Geffen), both to be issued in standard and deluxe editions. For traditionalists, well, they may be getting long in the tooth, but as latest venture Hot Sauce Committee Part Two (Capitol) asserts, New York hip-hop heroes The Beastie Boys still hold their own.

If spirited lighter fare is of the essence, try The 30th Annual John Lennon Tribute, Live From the Beacon Theatre, NYC (Theatre Within), a gala featuring the likes of Patti Smith, Jackson Browne, Taj Mahal, Aimee Mann, Shelby Lynne, Martin Sexton, Bettye LaVette, Joan Osborne, Keb' Mo' and more celebrating the life of a rock legend via his songs.

Not to be outdone, folk-infused poetic punk Frank Turner's England Keep My Bones (Epitaph) is easily one of the most rousing and passionate yet down-to-earth albums you probably haven't heard this year. Woody Guthrie would be proud. Similarly, on The King Is Dead (Rough Trade), folk lovers The Decemberists are surprisingly smooth.

ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

❄ Foo Fighters' Wasting Light would make a great gift for the rock fan on your list.

Rock fan in the crew? One could do far worse than to grab them a copy of Foo Fighters' gripping Wasting Light (Roswell), their seventh album overall and most comprehensive in years. For something less aggressive, Arctic Monkeys' Suck It And See (Domino) has been heralded as a champion affair.

For the classical fanatic, Naxos Of Canada is set to release a bevy of box sets featuring everything from jazz and instrumentals to operas and ballets. Formats range from separate collections to complete editions of Beethoven, Vivaldi, Rachmaninoff, Chopin and more.

If metal is the name of the game, as has become standard fare over their quarter-century (and then some) rivalry, heavy stalwarts Megadeth and Metallica have both issued fresh material just in time. Sating diehard fans of brain-bashing drums and buzz saw guitar riffs, the former's Th1rt3en (Roadrunner) runs exactly as planned. Reaching into more esoteric territory, Metallica opt to work with oddball rocker Lou Reed on elongated affair Lulu (Warner/Vertigo).

Finally, just because they are still kicking after so many decades, to thrill the young audiophile — or torment their parents — consider Alvin And The Chipmunks' Chipwrecked: Music From The Motion Picture featuring those iconic hyperactive rodents at their most ... well, whatever it is that rodents are.

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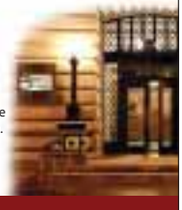

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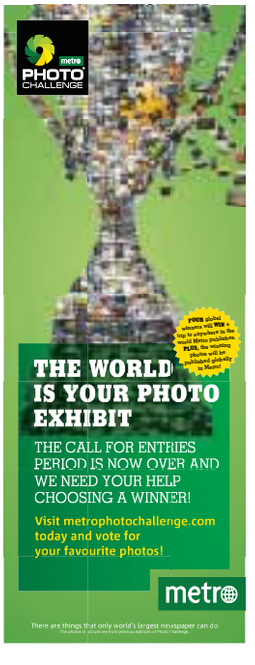
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On the naughty list

Satin Slip, $42, and Long Robe, $59.50, available at Victoria's Secret, victoriassecret.com.

Cotton Lingerie Demi, $32.50, and Bikini, $8.50, available at Victoria's Secret, victoriassecret.com.

Holiday Novelty Panties, $8.50-$16.50, available at Victoria's Secret, victoriassecret.com.

Mrs. Claus Babydoll Set $49.95, available at La Vie En Rose, lavieenrose.com.

Satin bow chemise, $29.95, available at La Vie En Rose, lavieenrose.com.

Satin Eye Mask, $7.95, available at La Vie En Rose, lavieenrose.com.

Very Sexy Lace Push-up, $52, and Garterskirt, $34.50, available at Victoria's Secret, victoriassecret.com.

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Three big looks for tree ornaments

KARL LOHNES
FOR METRO

Each year we see new looks for holiday décor and, often, an evolution from Christmases past. There are three looks that are guaranteed to be included in holiday décor each year: The ever popular Country Style; the illustrious Upscale Look; and the daring Trendy Colours.

Country

This is by far one of the most popular styles of decorating and always the best-seller around the holidays. Last year's country Christmas look was very outdoorsy — birch bark birds, twig nests, pine cones and reindeer motifs were all the rage.

This year, we go inside the house and the look is called Homespun.

Knitting, baking and sewing motifs help to define this décor theme: Barbie-sized knit sweaters, scarves and hat ornaments that hang on the tree; decorated gingerbread cookies; textured knit holiday ball ornaments; little quilted gingham house shapes adorned with wooden buttons make for great DIY-er inspired tree ornaments.

Upscale

There is always a formal style of decorating that is popular for the holidays. Last year was the heavily themed Venetian Ball: Party masks, peacocks, jesters and sparkles took the scene. This year we are seeing that look settling down into a simple colour scheme of purple, gold and crystal. Lots of purple hearts, gold harps, over-scaled diamonds and strung crystal ropes. Isn't it funny that there was a royal wedding this year and, voila!, ornaments of royal colours and diamonds appears!

Trendy

Last year introduced fun Grinch-inspired colours and shapes; wonky-looking lime trees, sparkly turquoise and pink balls and psychedelic striped, curly-toed stockings.

This year, the Grinch colours continue, but are toned down to solid-coloured shapes, polka dots and three colours; lime, turquoise and red. This look would show very well on an all-white tree and adds a retro '60s fun feel to the holidays.

Next year, look for these two colours to darken up significantly.

CANADIAN TIRE PHOTO

❄ Country is a popular decorating style during the holidays, such as Homespun, above.

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Bogosian next Jets big shot?

THE HOCKEY NEWS

RORY BOYLEN
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

It's hard to miss Dustin Byfuglien when you tune in to a Winnipeg Jets game because of his big body and the speed at which he aggressively flies up ice on the rush.

But when he's not the most noticeable player on the ice, Zach Bogosian is. Boy oh boy does this guy have presence.

When you look at his stats, Bogosian isn't exactly shooting out the lights. Offence hasn't come easy for the No. 3 overall pick in 2008, but he's still lauded as an all-around defender with potential to be a real force in the NHL. But even though the early returns on his production have been lukewarm, Bogosian still appears to be on his way to becoming the dominant performer the Atlanta Thrashers expected him to be.

First off, he moves at an incredible speed for a big man. Usually players his size either bring the big shot or their positioning and body work is down to a tee, pigeonholing them as either an offensive or defensive player. But because Bogosian has the shot and is showing improvement in his positioning, his speed makes him stand out from other monster-sized blueliners.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Zach Bogosian unleashes a shot against the Flyers in Philadelphia Oct. 27.

And how many times has this guy pulled off an end-to-end rush this season only to see his shot hit the post or a nice pass to an open forward hop off the stick or get shot wide? At some point the law of averages will kick in and these opportunities will start going in. And once they do, Bogosian's numbers will all of a sudden hit an uptick. Sure, he hasn't scored yet this season, but he's logged four points in his past four games so perhaps the averages are already starting to turn in his favour.

There are still times where he bobbles the puck in the defensive zone or waits a little too long to move it, but that comes with the territory of being a 21-year-old defenceman in the NHL. You can't say it's a problem though, and with Tobias Enstrom out with an injury, coach Claude Noel has been leaning on Bogosian more and more. In seven of the team's past 10 games, Bogosian has logged 25 minutes or more.

Last season there were trade rumours around Bogosian — if anyone suggests that again this season, please inform the Jets that they don't realize what they have in the Massena, N.Y. native.

Win not enough to save Ducks coach

JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ducks fans show their displeasure for head coach Randy Carlyle on Sunday.

The Anaheim Ducks fired coach Randy Carlyle late Wednesday night and hired former Washington coach Bruce Boudreau, who was dismissed by the Capitals just two days earlier.

The Ducks made the abrupt move after beating Montreal 4-1 on Wednesday night for the club's third victory in 19 games, snapping a seven-game skid.

Carlyle coached the Ducks to their only Stanley Cup title in 2007, but struggled to get his talented club's attention this season. Carlyle agreed to a three-year contract extension through the 2013-14 season in August, but Anaheim got off to a perplexing 7-13-4 start.

"Randy is a terrific head coach, and did a tremendous job for us for six-plus seasons," Anaheim general manager Bob Murray said. "We thank him greatly for his hard work and dedication to our franchise, not the least of which was a Stanley Cup championship. At this time, we simply felt a new voice was needed. Bruce is a proven winner with a great track record, and we are optimistic we can turn this season around under his leadership."

Carlyle has the most coaching wins in Ducks history, and he was behind Anaheim's bench for many of the 1993 expansion franchise's biggest moments. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 sports

Quoted

"I'm very proud of the time that I've spent with the Galaxy and it might continue."

DAVID BECKHAM. THE FORMER ENGLAND CAPTAIN SAID HE HAS A "BIG DECISION TO MAKE" AFTER HIS CONTRACT WITH THE LOS ANGELES GALAXY EXPIRES AND REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO PLAY FOR THE BRITISH TEAM IN THE LONDON OLYMPICS NEXT YEAR.

Scan code for more sports news.

▶ Shane Doan walks off the ice after a playoff loss to Detroit last spring in Arizona.

The last link to the first team

Shane Doan, the only old Winnipeg Jet still standing in Phoenix, remembers roots as team returns to city

Coyotes captain Shane Doan has a lot of history with the city of Winnipeg.

The last first-round pick of the original Jets, Doan was drafted seventh overall in the 1995 NHL draft. When the team moved to Arizona at the end of that season, so did he.

"He has a soft spot for Winnipeg, his career started here," Phoenix coach Dave Tippett said Thursday before the Coyotes-Jets game — their first regular season meeting since 1996.

"But he's come down and he's put a lot of time and effort into trying to make our organization a viable organization."

Now 35, Doan was a fresh-faced kid with the Memorial Cup-winning Kamloops Blazers when he was drafted by the Jets.

But when the Coyotes play Winnipeg, Tippett knows where Doan's loyalties lie.

"I'm sure he'll have some emotion ... (but) once the puck drops he'll be like everybody else," said Tippett.

Doan, meanwhile, knows who Jets fans cheer for.

"I'm sure that anyone that comes in here isn't going to be welcomed too much and I'm sure we're no different," said Doan.

Results online

For the story on tonight's Jets-Coyotes game, please visit metronews.ca.

Still, a return to Winnipeg means something to Doan and the other Coyotes.

"Coming back here for the first time is something that you'll definitely remember," said Doan.

The NHL veteran downplayed any suggestion he slagged his former home when there was talk it might be Phoenix, not the Atlanta Thrashers, that would move to Winnipeg.

"I never once said a single disparaging word about Winnipeg," said Doan. "I simply stated that the connection that I had with Phoenix was because I'd been there for 15 years, the same thing as I would have had if I'd been with Winnipeg for 15 years and someone told me I had to leave."

At the same time, the continued uncertainty over the future of the Coyotes and the enthusiastic welcome Winnipeg has accorded the new Jets, hasn't gone unnoticed.

"You get excited about watching people get emotional about their team," said Doan.

"You appreciate it and obviously you're envious about the way the situation happened so quickly for Atlanta and it's over and done with and they got settled with a great ownership and great management."

He said the Coyotes try not to talk about their future but would like a resolution sooner rather than later.

"You do grow callous to it ... I want to stay there," said Doan. "That's where my family has been their whole life, that's where everybody wants to stay but you really have no say in it."

Tippett said the situation is different now then last season.

A prospective new owner, apparently without a lot of cash, got caught in a struggle with a taxpayer advocacy group fighting plans to use public money in the deal.

"The NHL has done a good job of making sure that whatever is happening is happening behind closed doors and that's the way we like it," Tippett said.

"We recognize we're still in the same situation but all we can do is go out and play well and that's what our group's focused on."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A B.C. Lions fan works the crowd prior to the start of the CFL 99th Grey Cup last Sunday in Vancouver.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Blue Bombers quarterback Buck Pierce reflects on last Sunday's Grey Cup loss to the Lions in Vancouver.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ It appears Wally Buono's Grey Cup win will go down as his final game coached.

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Steven Jyles will be back with the Argos in 2012.

Gloves already off in CFL off-season

Dan Toth looks at what to expect from Canadian football in 2012 with an already compelling and controversial off-season underway

CFL EXTRA POINTS

DAN TOTH
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

The Canadian Football League's off-season is like a Joe Kapp right cross — unexpected and dramatic, while packing enough punch to knock a veteran to the floor.

The next few months should be filled with staggering developments as all eight teams start juggling their rosters and running coaches out of town. The ultimate goal is to rebuild and make a run at the 100th Grey Cup next November in Toronto. Hamilton head coach Marcel Bellefeuille has already been sent packing, Winnipeg offensive co-ordinator Jamie Barresi has been booted, Calgary defensive co-ordinator Chris Jones has bolted for Toronto and Montreal offensive co-ordinator Scott Milanovich has reunited with Argos GM Jim Barker. Consider the many other possibilities:

Buono steps aside: Newly crowned Grey Cup champ Wally Buono, who earned his fifth ring as a coach in Sunday's win over Winnipeg, has likely coached his last game.

At 61, Buono appears ready to hand the Lions' reins to a successor (possibly defensive co-ordinator Mike Benevides) and watch from the press box. Buono's three-year contract expires in 2013, and when he signed the current deal he made it clear that he would not necessarily perform both roles before the contract expired.

Bombers look to strike first with Pierce: Winnipeg Blue Bombers GM Joe Mack will have his hands full this off-season with about a dozen unsigned free agents, including D-lineman Doug Brown who is expected to retire.

On top of Mack's list is quarterback Buck Pierce, who proved his mettle by avoiding injuries to get his club to the Grey Cup game. Mack also has to be concerned with fielding a team that can fill the new 33,000-seat Winnipeg Stadium that opens in 2012.

Riders' top coaching choice already spoken for: Kent Austin tops the Christmas Wish List of most Saskatchewan Roughriders fans, but he's unlikely to accept the head coaching job in Regina.

Now head coach at Cornell University, Austin won a Grey Cup with the Riders in 2007 but finds himself a candidate for a head job with a top college and eventually the NFL. Having Austin return to Regina is a romantic notion for the Riders faithful, but he's a longshot to return. GM Brendan Taman is more likely to offer the job to Calgary OC Dave Dickenson, but is Dickenson keen on the Queen City?

Scott jumps to Argos' ship: Has Scott Milanovich lost his mind? Yes, the Montreal Alouettes 2011 offensive co-ordinator, who took over Toronto's head coaching position Thursday, is old pals with Argos GM Jim Barker. But Toronto? Talk about going from the penthouse to the outhouse with one stroke of a pen. Making matters worse, Barker has already re-signed QB Steven Jyles, who can't possibly be the starting quarterback next season.

Burris has suitors in Southern Ontario: Henry Burris, the CFL's Most Outstanding Player in 2010, could have options when it comes to finding a new team next season.

The obvious choice is Toronto, which needs a veteran quarterback like Angelo Mosca needs a good corner man. But Hamilton might also be in the market for a top pivot. Starter Kevin Glenn has been a disappointment in his three seasons in black and gold, even though he guided his team past Montreal in the East semifinal.

McNabb cut loose by Vikings

Donovan McNabb is available again.

The Minnesota Vikings waived the 13-year veteran quarterback Thursday, giving him the opportunity to sign with another team for the stretch run in a parting coach Leslie Frazier described as mutual.

Frazier pushed for the Vikings to trade a sixth-round draft pick this summer to the Washington Redskins in exchange for McNabb. He wanted stability he believed McNabb would bring to the offence after the NFL lockout kept rookie Christian Ponder from practising with the team or working with his coaches until training camp.

Frazier and McNabb met in 1999, when the defensive backs coach and the first-round draft pick spent their first year with the Philadelphia Eagles.

"This was the best decision for both parties," Frazier said. "He was a great player and has been a great player for our league for a long, long time. Have a lot of affection and love for Donovan."

McNabb went 1-5 as a starter, threw for only four touchdowns and completed just five passes of 25-plus yards. Frazier said he didn't regret the trade given the situation the Vikings were in this summer, and said he believes McNabb can still play in the NFL but stopped short of saying he can be an effective starter.

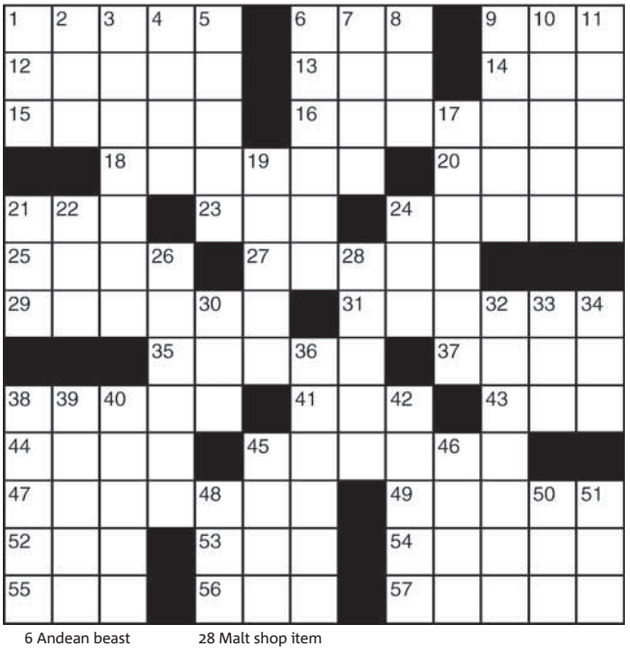
"I'm not certain about that. ... A lot depends on the team he goes to, if he goes to another team," Frazier said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HANNAH FOSLIEN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Donovan McNabb

Crossword



Across

1 Recordings
6 Big bother
9 Scale notes
12 Sudden gush
13 Rawls or Reed
14 Exist
15 Places in the heart
16 Range of understanding
18 Basement
20 Sea eagle
21 Handle
23 Fond du —, Wis.
24 The staff of life
25 Auctioneer's cry
27 Foundation
29 Claim
31 "Rug"
35 Hay machine
37 Wrestling style
38 Separated
41 Angry
43 Scoot
44 Japanese rice wine (Var.)
45 Former Secretary of State
47 Chase
49 Crosses
52 UN workers grp.
53 Retainer
54 Wedding VIP
55 Has the skills
56 Peculiar
57 Busybody

Down

1 Airport org.
2 Suitable
3 17th-century composer Henry
4 Great Lake
5 Play for time
6 Andean beast
7 Gloomy
8 Lord's Prayer opener
9 Word with savoir or laissez
10 Sports venue
11 Emulated Betsy Ross
17 Opposing
19 Tag
21 "Born in the —"
22 The Sun
24 Resume, for short
26 Scattered fragments
28 Malt shop item
30 Roscoe
32 Steal
33 Ostrich's kin
34 A billion years
36 Overacted
38 Jellied entree
39 TV cook Deen
40 Ohio city
42 Bowler
45 Multicolored
46 Traditional tales
48 Venusian vessel?
50 Potent pesticide
51 Vast expanse

▶ Yesterday's answer

S	P	A	R		M	A	Y		H	A	N	G
T	I	L	E		O	N	O		O	R	A	L
A	T	O	P		N	A	G		O	G	R	E
G	A	T	E	A	U		A	D	D	U	C	E
			A	T	M			D	O	M		
W	A	T	T		E	N	D	T	O	E	N	D
A	L	E			N	E	O			N	O	I
G	I	G	A	N	T	I	C		S	T	D	S
			U	S	O			U	S	E		
T	A	M	I	N	G		M	O	R	R	I	S
U	V	E	A		A	P	E		E	A	S	E
B	O	N	N		L	A	N		N	I	L	E
A	N	T	S		E	S	T		E	D	E	N

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Some extraordinary things will happen over the next few days. Whether they're good or bad is up to you.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Don't be afraid to put your own needs first today because they will benefit many other people as well.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 If you take too many risks, your chances of coming through unscathed will be on the low side.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Be a lot more flexible if you want to take advantage of the opportunities that are now coming your way.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 It may be the case that something has not worked out to your full satisfaction but it's really no big deal.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Jupiter in your fellow Earth sign of Taurus indicates health, wealth and happiness. Share the lucky streak.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Life is going to get tougher over the next few days, but that's OK because you need to be challenged.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Today's Sun-Mars link will make it easy to get angry but, really, what's the point? Let it all wash over you.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Today's Sun-Mars union could bring you up against someone who is as domineering as you.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You seem to be in a bit of a fix at the moment with no obvious way out. Sit tight for the time being.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you don't listen to a loved one's advice today, the results could be traumatic. You don't know it all!

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. There's no point in getting angry or upset today. Try laughing instead. SALLY BROMPTON

Sudoku

8			9		1			
6	1						7	3
	5			4		6		
	9		8	5				7
		3				1		
4				3	9		8	
		9		2			3	
3	2						6	5
			7		3			2

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

9	3	6	8	2	4	5	1	7
7	4	8	9	1	5	6	3	2
2	1	5	7	6	3	9	8	4
5	7	4	3	8	2	1	6	9
3	6	2	1	7	9	8	4	5
1	8	9	5	4	6	7	2	3
6	9	3	2	5	1	4	7	8
8	5	1	4	3	7	2	9	6
4	2	7	6	9	8	3	5	1

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Cute Stats,
All semester the only reason to come to class has been your beautiful face. I've seen you reading the metro some classes. Try looking back on Friday ;) **DELISH STRANGER**

Jon,
<3 my partner in crime **JENNA**

BlueJae
hey i just wanted to let you know how pretty you are,school wouldn't be the same without you, every day on my way to school i hope I'm on the same bus so i can sit beside you, also i wanted to tell you i had a lot of fun watching twilight with you on Saturday- if we're reading this together like we do then i think this is where we kiss, so just close your eyes and lean in babe ;) **DECKS**

A look at the weather

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Min -7°	Min -12°	Min -15°
Max 2°	Max -6°	Max -6°

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist
BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION
"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**

KOJI SASAHARA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caption contest

PETER DEJONG/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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LOOK AGAIN SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES IN THESE TWO IMAGES.

Cape Elizabeth, Maine – It's 360 degrees of fun and adventure in the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. With tons of cargo space and best-in-class fuel efficiency, it's all doing and less fueling for this family.

1. Added boat in the water above the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 2. Changed front wheel reflector in bicycle to orange 3. Removed seat reflector on bicycle 4. Removed support bar above the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 5. Added stripe to purple helmet 6. Changed colour of flowers behind the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 7. Removed lug nut cover on rear tire of the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 8. Changed colour of bag in the trunk of the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 9. Moved the position of the white boat 10. Removed tint from the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox window

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